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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE



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MAJOR CROP PROCESSING AND WEATHER REPORTING

PREPARATIONS FOR 1985 FIELD WORK IN KAZAKHSTAN

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Lead article: "Guaranteeing the Harvest"]

[Text] Care for the new harvest, the future grain--there is nothing of greater concern for anyone who lives and works in the village. Grain is not easy to produce. Under conditions of risky farming it is three times more difficult to produce. This was confirmed by the drought of recent years in the virgin lands.

However, the work results of Kazakh grain farmers under these difficult conditions speak of their growing skill and their ability to withstand the caprices of nature. Even in an extremely dry year such as last year the republic procured almost 450 million poods of grain--four times more than it procured before the assimilation of the virgin lands. Such grain was obtained not only by means of increased area but also by means of the growth in productivity of fields. Hundreds of enterprises now produce 16-20 quintals of grain per hectare during any year.

Nevertheless, we cannot have indifference. Grain-sowing enterprises have not achieved stability in grain production. Guaranteeing the harvest during any year--this is the main goal.

"It is essential to finally free people of the agonizing worry about the fate of the harvest and to give them the joy of victory over the elements. It is our duty, this is our obligation," said Comrade K. U. Chernenko at the October 1984 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. The country's party and government have worked out cardinal long-term measures for stable growth of the food fund, and first and foremost for increasing the production and procurement of agricultural products. The implementation of these measures is the task of party organizations and soviet and management organs.

As noted at the 15th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Kazakh CP, for Kazakhstan the key task involves increasing the production and procurement of grain, especially of strong and durum wheats. Grain-sowing oblasts have the possibilities for this. One of the main reserves is the transition to an intensive technology for cultivating spring wheat. Already this year the enterprises of the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan must assimilate this crop

on no less than one-third of sowing area. Just by improving the technology for raising wheat it is possible to produce several million additional quintals of grain.

The republic has experience in cultivating spring spike crops according to intensive technology. As a result of its assimilation large harvests are regularly produced by grain farmers of sovkhoses such as Zlatopol'skiy, Voskhod, Karagandinskiy, Urumkayskiy and others. Here a system of land preparations has been carefully worked out, the correct crop rotations with a mandatory field of bare fallow have been assimilated, intensive wheats are available in the arsenal of crop varieties, mineral fertilizers and chemical means of plant protection are utilized widely and collective contracts are being introduced successfully.

This year for the first time intensive technology is being introduced in the republic to cultivate spring wheat on a large scale. For this purpose, sovkhoses and kolkhoses are allocated additional mineral fertilizers, herbicides and technical means. The goal is to have each enterprise utilize all available possibilities. Now the most important thing is to carefully prepare for work in a new manner. First of all, agro-industrial associations and sovkhos and kolkhoz directors and specialists must teach all machine operators and field workers about the bases of intensive technology. For this we must utilize the time that is left before the beginning of spring work. Already today every enterprise must work out field maps which are to be followed when carrying out technological operations during the sowing period. Here it is essential to combine the efforts of specialists from enterprises and from rayon agrochemical services. It is no secret that in many sovkhoses and kolkhoses mineral fertilizers and herbicides are often used incorrectly and that because of this they do not yield the expected effect.

In 1985 Kazakhstan must harvest no fewer than 29 million tons of grain. In order to do this it is essential to achieve a sharp growth in field productivity. Our goal is to produce no fewer than 16-20 quintals of wheat per hectare on fields cultivated according to intensive technology; on bare fallow the yield is expected to be even greater. Many factors affect the harvest. It is important to utilize all reserves until the end.

Under dry conditions in virgin-lands oblasts the accumulation of productive moisture in the soil is always the priority agrotechnical measure. Most of this reserve must be collected in the course of the winter. At present there is abundant precipitation almost everywhere. It is essential to accumulate as much snow as possible in the fields. This is the main guarantee of the harvest. The practice of virgin-lands farming confirms that the winter accumulation of precipitation on fields yields an additional 2-3 quintals of grain per hectare as a minimum. It is no accident that immediately after the first snowfall units were brought out into the fields in most of the enterprises of North Kazakhstan, Kokchetav, Kustanay and Tselinograd oblasts. In many regions here the formation of two sets of windrows has already been completed.

The role of organic fertilizers is inestimable in preserving and increasing soil fertility. In the course of winter it is planned to bring 38 million tons

of organic fertilizer into the fields. This work must be speeded up because less and less time remains. Prior to the application of organic fertilizers into the soil it must become balanced in terms of micro- and macro-elements. Only then will local fertilizers be most effective.

Farmers have many concerns during the winter period. Now it is essential to speed up the repair of tractors and sowing and soil-cultivating equipment. The initiators of all-union competition--the repair workers of Pavlodar Oblast--are setting the tone in the struggle of village machine operators for a model preparation of the machine-tractor fleet for spring. They have placed two-thirds of tractors subject to repairs in the line of readiness. The enterprises of Aktyubinsk, Dzhambul, Chimkent and Ural oblasts are carrying out the preparation of equipment at a rapid pace. However, the same cannot be said for the sovkhozes and kolkhozes of Turgay, East Kazakhstan and Kustanay oblasts, where lags in repair work have been tolerated.

The slow pace of repairs of powerful K-700 tractors, which perform most of the field work during the spring, is cause for alarm. In the republic almost one-fourth of these machines are in disrepair. Their repair is being hindered due to constant disruptions of contractual agreements on the delivery of spare parts by manufacturing enterprises. There is a shortage of crankshafts, connecting rods, distributor shafts and YaMZ-238 and YaMZ-240 motors. The associations of the republic's Goskomsel'khoztekhnika [State Committee of the Agricultural Equipment Association] must demonstrate greater persistence in fulfilling contractual obligations.

Following the example of farmers in North Kazakhstan Oblast, the republic's grain farmers have begun competition as regards model preparations for the new harvest and are striving to achieve new successes in the development of grain production and to procure more high-quality grain.

Increasing the procurement of strong and durum wheat grain, for which Kazakhstan is famous, is the subject of special concern of party, soviet and economic organs and agro-industrial enterprises. Despite the fact that the proportion of the most valuable wheats in total procurement volume of this crop has always been high in the republic, in recent years their delivery has been curtailed in a number of oblasts and many enterprises and rayons are not fulfilling their goals as concerns the production of strong and durum wheat grains. Thus, last year the enterprises of Ural Oblast did not procure a single quintal of standard durum wheat. Of eight rayons with plans to deliver strong wheats, only one or two rayons fulfill their goals even during favorable years. At the same time, plans on barley procurement are overfulfilled here by a factor of 2-3.

The enterprises of Aktyubinsk, Dzezkagzan, Karaganda, Taldy-Kurgan and Alma-Ata oblasts procure insufficient amounts of strong wheats.

The country does not just need grain--it needs grain of good quality. It is no accident that the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee last year made a special examination of the question of increasing the production and procurement of grain of strong and durum wheats. "More, and of better quality!"--this should be the motto of Kazakhstan's grain farmers.

RECLAMATION, NEW TECHNOLOGY IN SUPPORT OF 1985, FUTURE HARVESTS

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Nov 84 p 1

[Lead article: "The Intensification of Farming"]

[Text] Today Kazakhstan is justifiably considered one of the largest suppliers of farm products in the country. Over 35 million hectares are allocated for various agricultural crops in the republic each year. With the assimilation of the virgin lands grains became the priority crop. Kazakhstan was transformed into one of the country's largest granaries.

The republic produces a great deal of grain, groats crops, vegetables, potatoes and other farming products. But it can and must produce more. Sovkhozes and kolkhozes still have not achieved stability in farming or guaranteed increases in field production output. The drought of recent years has once again confirmed that in a zone of risky farming agriculture must be managed in such a way as to have it depend less on the caprices of nature. This was the orientation of the recent regular plenary session of the party's central committee.

The CPSU Central Committee and the country's government have worked out additional large-scale measures on intensifying agricultural production and on further developing the entire agro-industrial complex. A central place among these measures is occupied by the Long-Term Program of Reclamation and by improvements in the effectiveness of utilizing reclaimed lands.

The land reclamation program approved by the plenum of the party's central committee satisfies the basic interests of our republic. In accordance with the program, by the year 2000 it is planned to increase the area of irrigated lands to 3.0-3.5 million hectares in Kazakhstan. This is an increase by a factor of 1.5 over the irrigated land existing today.

For our republic, with its great variety of soil-climatic zones and with significant areas that are subject to frequent and severe droughts, this type of increase in irrigated land area is of special significance. But today the priority task is to increase the return on assimilated irrigated lands and to achieve the projected productivity on them in terms of all agricultural crops. This task can be achieved only by means of intensifying irrigated farm-

ing. This is a large but still poorly-utilized reserve for increasing production output.

In Kazakhstan irrigated fields comprise not much over 5 percent of arable land but they yield one-fourth of the total volume of agricultural products. In the republic all sugar beets, cotton, corn for grain, rice, many vegetables and potatoes and melon crops are raised on irrigated lands. Over half of all irrigated lands are in feed crops. However, there is great variety in the yields achieved in different enterprises. This speaks of the different levels of agrotechnical quality and of different attitudes toward the irrigated hectare. Here are a few typical examples. In the republic the average yield of Bezostaya-1 winter wheat grain equals 27.5 quintals per hectare, but last year Kolkhoz imeni Kirov and Azatlyk Kolkhoz of Chimkent Oblast produced 57-70 quintals per irrigated hectare. Or let's take Kazakhstanskaya S-4 corn for grain developed in Yugoslavia. In 40 Let Oktyabrya Kolkhoz of Panfilovskiy Rayon, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, over 70 quintals of grain are produced per hectare, whereas in the republic only 35 quintals are produced. The yield of sugar beets is low although leading enterprises achieve yields of up to 500 quintals of roots and more per hectare. These cases speak of the fact that with intensive management of production it is possible to produce at least 1.5 times more on the existing irrigated land area.

Irrigated lands are justifiably called the golden fund of sovkhoses and kolkhozes. The relationship to it must be careful and economical. In places where there is concern for increasing their fertility and for utilizing every hectare they produce a great effect with a harvest that is three or four times greater than the harvest on dry-farming land. In enterprises such as Pakhtaaral Sovkhoz-Technical School of Chimkent Oblast, for example, where combination and after-harvest cultivation of various crops are utilized, the return per irrigated hectare is still greater. This year sovkhoses and kolkhozes in the oblast had over 20,000 hectares in combination and after-harvest stands of feed crops. Thanks to this, about 200,000 tons of silage mass were produced additionally.

Reclamation is one of the most important factors in intensifying farming. During this five-year plan the republic has introduced over 200,000 hectares of new irrigated land into use. Large reclamation structures such as Beskaragayskiy Development in Semipalatinsk Oblast, Tushutkul'skiy Development in Dzhambul Oblast, the Large Alma-Ata Canal and the Bartogayskoye Water Reservoir in Alma-Ata Oblast, the Irtysh-Karaganda-Dzhezkazgan Canal in Central Kazakhstan and others are being built. Reclamation capital will increase sharply within the next few years in almost every oblast. This puts forth the tasks of improving the use of irrigated lands, introducing crop rotations and progressive industrial technology and widespread chemicalization on them, and on this basis, of programming harvests of agricultural crops. Already today this must become the concern of soviet and agricultural organs, agro-industrial associations and scientific institutions.

This year in the republic agricultural crops were raised according to programmed technology on over 500,000 hectares. Complete assimilation of this technology can open up the possibility of regularly producing 80-100 quintals

of corn grain, 600-800 quintals of silage mass, 150-200 quintals of alfalfa hay and large yields of potatoes and vegetables per hectare.

An increase in agricultural production output depends on the extensive introduction of a zonal farming systems. They must be developed not only within the limits of one oblast but for individual rayons as well. It is the zonal system we have to thank for the large and stable yields of corn grain on the irrigated lands belonging to enterprises of Panfilovskiy Rayon, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast. This year they reached the highest levels of production of the amber-colored grain.

In Kazakhstan there are almost 2.15 million hectares of irrigated lands today. But for various reasons significant areas of these lands are not utilized in Dzhambul, Kzyl-Orda and other oblasts. Water management and agricultural organs and RAPO [Rayon Agro-Industrial Association] councils must take immediate action to include them in turnover.

The problem of improving the reclamation status of irrigated lands and of servicing irrigation systems is an urgent one. Minvodkhoz [Ministry of Water Management], Minsel'khoz [Ministry of Agriculture] and Glavrissovkhozstroy [Main Administration of Rice Sovkhoz Construction] must improve work on restructuring inter-enterprise and intra-enterprise irrigation networks. This work must be done comprehensively according to a single plan. It is also essential to strengthen the capacities of repair-operation organizations in oblasts.

In recent years even in zones of irrigated farming enterprises experienced a shortage of irrigation water. At the same time, a great deal of it becomes waste water and disappears without benefit. This speaks of the fact that we must improve irrigation methods and introduce sprinkler machines and units more widely. Meanwhile, mechanized watering using such machines and units takes place only one-third of irrigated arable land. Tens of thousands of hectares in Chimkent, Alma-Ata, Dzhambul, East Kazakhstan and other oblasts are not irrigated each year. We must put an end to such a careless attitude toward the reclamation fund.

The October Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee has established the goals of utilizing all reserves of the irrigated hectare, of increasing its effectiveness, and on this basis of sharply increasing the yield of grain, vegetables, potatoes and industrial and feed crops. The joint efforts of party committees, water management organs, directors and specialists of sovkhozes and kolkhozes and councils of agro-industrial associations must be directed at meeting these goals.

8228

CSO: 1824/280

PROGRESS, PROBLEMS IN BELORUSSIAN SPRING FIELD WORK

Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belorussian 19 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "Into the Fields, Grain Farmers! The Sowing Will Require Highly Skilled Cadres, Perfectly Ready Equipment, and Outstanding Quality Seed" (See also CSU 1811/20, 22 Feb 85, which also dealt with 1985 crop preparations in Byelorussia)]

[Text] It won't be long before springtime calls grain farmers into the fields, and the busy fight for the harvest will get under way.

Spring is special for this year. The whole nation is preparing for a remarkable occasion--the 40th anniversary of Great Victory and the 27th CPSU Congress. The struggle is on to successfully complete the targets of the final year and the 11th Five-Year Plan as a whole. Reliable accomplishment of the spring sowing to lay a solid foundation for the future harvest, therefore, as was noted at the recent meeting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, takes on special urgency and importance. It is essential to take all this into account and draw the necessary conclusions from the lessons of last year, to be well prepared for any caprices of weather, and to ensure increased production of grain, feed, and other commodities.

The republic's grain farmers have set high targets for themselves this year. Socialist obligations include these figures: Produce 26 quintals of grain, 105 quintals of potatoes, 175 quintals of vegetables, 270 quintals of sugar beets, and 5.8 quintals of flax fiber per hectare.

The abundant experience and substantial accomplishments of winners in All-Union and republic socialist competition clearly attest that it is possible not only to fulfill but also overfulfill plans and targets. For right-flankers it has become commonplace to harvest 35 to 40 quintals of grain and 250 to 300 quintals of potatoes per hectare every year, under any weather conditions.

For example, the farm workers of Slutskiy Rayon were worthy victors in All-Union and republic socialist competition, winning the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee, also the Challenge Red Banners of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, the Belorussian Council of Ministers, the Belorussian Trade Union Council, and the Belorussian Komsomol Central Committee. Last year they harvested 35 quintals of grain, 236 quintals of potatoes,

and 253 quintals of sugar beets per hectare. In the final year of the five-year plan they are fighting for an even bigger harvest. Everything is being done, naturally, to accomplish it. The Slutskiy farmers have sown first-class seed on the spring fields and brought soil cultivation and seeding equipment to full readiness. They have also taken care to organize the instruction of mechanization cadres. Organic fertilizer and stored mineral fertilizer is being hauled out into the fields at a fast pace.

Numerous instructive examples of this kind, examples of real diligence and hard work, could be cited. There are plenty in every rayon, every oblast. The fate of the harvest largely depends on the condition of seed stocks. Most of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes stocked up on the necessary quantity of seed in good time and brought it up to condition.

Unfortunately, some kolkhozes and sovkhozes have yet to complete this vital task. There, the preparation of seed, especially legumes, buckwheat, flax, and perennial grasses, has been troubled by serious violations. Farm managers and specialists, RAPO councils, and above all the workers of the agronomy services will have to ensure timely preparation of the seed and exchange it [provesti yego obmen], with one aim: to see to it that every kolkhoz and sovkhoz has enough high-quality seed of all the necessary crops to provide for the whole spring planting area.

At a recent republic meeting of the party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol aktiv it was noted that it is essential to complete spring preparations without delay in order to carry out all field operations in good time and on a high level of quality and ensure the harvesting of planned crop yields. To accomplish this, the focus of all organizational and political work must be shifted directly to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, the labor collectives of the countryside, which have to deal promptly with all problems that arise. In short, it is essential to do everything possible to complete equipment repairs as soon as possible, prepare the seed, stock up on fuel, fertilizer, and other resources, and instruct the specialists and machinery cadres. It is essential to take extensive measures everywhere to correct and eliminate shortcomings which can have a negative impact on the course and quality of spring sowing operations.

Consider, for example, preparation and hauling of organic fertilizer. Everyone is aware that without it you cannot boost the fertility of the soil or raise abundant and reliable crops. Some farmers, unfortunately, forget this fundamental truth. In Gomel Oblast, for example, the best results in hauling organic fertilizer were achieved on farms where "fertility detachments" were created and given specific assignments and people were encouraged to work productively--especially in Zhitkovichskiy, Lelchitskiy, Yelskiy, and Mozyrskiy rayons. More than 20 tons of compost per spring hectare--more than last year--have already been delivered.

Contrariwise, in places where this work has been delayed and carried out too slowly, indicators are low. The farmers of Braginskiy, Zhlobinskiy, and Narovlyanskiy rayons have hauled far less organic fertilizer than they could have. Less than 10 tons of compost per hectare have been delivered on

Kistsyani Sovkhoz and the Dowsk Experimental Base in Rogachevskiy Rayon, Kapatkevicny Sovkhoz in Petrikovskiy Rayon, and Sovkhoz imeni Chapayev and Starogradski Sovkhoz in Kormyanskiy Rayon.

Klichawski Sovkhoz in Klichevskiy Rayon has developed a peculiar technique for fertilizing the soil. In the pursuit of tonnage they haul only peat onto the fields, although there is plenty of organic fertilizer on the farm. Savetskaya Belarus Kolkhoz is also composting peat "with air." Dowgawski and Ganchanski sovkhoses as well as Kolkhoz imeni Tel'man in that rayon are also guilty of serious violations. Specialists of the agronomy and agrochemical services of these farms, also the RAPO, deserve a reprimand for violating the technology of compost procurement.

Out into the fields, grain farmers! The more and better the work that is done right now to start the spring sowing in a high state of readiness, the better the organization, in an optimal time frame, and the better the agro-technical level. This is the guarantee of an abundant harvest by which farm workers and all workers of the agroindustrial complex of the republic have decided to observe the year of the 27th CPSU Congress.

6854

CSO: 1811/34

COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING FLOOD CONDITIONS IN UKRAINE

Moscow RABOCHAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 85 p 4

/Article: "Meeting of a Commission"/

/Text/ The republic's Governmental Commission for Combating Natural Calamities held a meeting. The leaders of a number of ministries, departments and organizations of the UkSSR, the deputy chairmen of oblast executive committees, executives of the Administration of Affairs of the UkSSR Council of Ministers and representatives of the commands of the Kiev, Odessa and Carpathian military districts all participated in the work of this commission.

During this meeting, a discussion took place on the vital problems concerned with making preparations for this year's spring flood. The chief of the Ukrainian Republic's Administration for Hydrometeorology and Control Over the Natural Environment N.P. Skripnik delivered a report describing the conditions associated with the formation of high water on rivers in the Ukraine.

It was noted that in connection with a general reduction in the air temperatures on the rivers and reservoirs of the republic, with the exception of the Crimean area, stable ice conditions are being observed, with these conditions increasing in intensity. In the basins of the Dnepr, Pripyat', Desna, Severskiy Donets and other rivers, the water supplies in the snow exceed the norm and in some regions -- by twofold. In view of this fact and also taking into account the existing hydrometeorological situation, it is expected that the high water level mentioned earlier will be exceeded. Moreover, the clearing of the rivers, the breaking up of the ice and the commencement of spring flood conditions will commence 8-10 days later than the normal periods.

During the period in which the maximum flood level is achieved, the water will flow out onto the bottom land and this can lead to the partial flooding of certain regions in Kiev, Chernigov, Sumy, Poltava, Kharkov, Odessa, Nikolayev, Vinnitsa, Lvov, Ivano-Frankovsk and other oblasts.

Attention was focused on the complicated ice situation which has developed in the Soviet sector of the Danube River, where owing to the presence of large supplies of snow the water level may rise higher than the critical marks, with flooding taking place in coastal populated points and in individual national economic installations located in the river's delta. Moreover, strong frosts have hindered navigation on the Danube. Measures are being undertaken at the present time aimed at eliminating the ice blockages and restoring navigation.

The participants in the meeting discussed the urgent tasks concerned with timely preparations for future operations, associated with the possibility of spring flooding -- ensuring stable operations by industrial and agricultural installations and reliable protection for bridges, bridge crossings, dikes, dams, sluices and other hydraulic engineering installations, land reclamation systems, electric power transmission lines and for the feed supplies for public livestock husbandry. Specific tasks in this regard were assigned to Minenergo /Ministry of Power and Electrification/, Minchermet /Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy/, Minugleprom /Ministry of the Coal Industry, Minsel'khov /Ministry of Agriculture/, Minvodkhoz /Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources/, Minavtotrans /Ministry of Motor Transport/, Minsvyaz' /Ministry of Communications/, Minleskhoz /Ministry of the Forestry Industry/, Mindorstroy /Ministry of Highway Construction and Maintenance/, construction ministries and organizations, Mintorg /Ministry of Trade/, Ukoopsoyuz, Ukglavrybkhoz, Glavrechflot, steamship agencies and oblast executive committees. The task has been assigned -- to prevent any harm from being inflicted upon the national economy during this period and also to display operational skill, efficiency, harmony and initiative.

During the meeting, a speech was delivered by the deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers P.Ye. Yesipenko.

7026

CSO: 1824/267

FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES FOR VOLGA REGION DISCUSSED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Mar 85 p 4

/Article by V. Drobotov, Volgograd Oblast: "The Volga Region Awaits Flood Conditions"/

/Text/ It is apparent even "by eye" that the Volga has risen this winter. During the height of the cold weather, hummocks of ice were pushed up onto the floodplain shoreline or they blocked up the shallow and sandbar areas. From above, from a steep precipice, the river took on the appearance of a deeply plowed white field. In the center of Volgograd, near the new river terminal, fantastic hummocks of ice were jammed together along the piers where they reached almost up to the upper marks.

Even in a coat of icy armor, the Volga appears majestic: one still senses its hidden might. But whereas a tourist-guest or carefree city-dweller is attracted by this majestic beauty, people who work on the river view it merely as a source for anxious concerns.

This year the discharge of water through the dam of the Volzhskiy GES /state electric power plant/ imeni XXI S"yezda KPSS was for various reasons more intensive than in past seasons. On the one hand -- a snowy winter and a raised level for the reservoir and on the other -- severe frosts required additional expenditures of energy. Mismanagement and a wasteful attitude with regard to the use of energy at industrial enterprises and in everyday life also played a definite role. It is said that the turbines on the Volga are turning and that our electricity is cheap.

During the middle of the winter, ice obstacles developed along the lower reaches of the river. The water level rose. In some areas, on islands and along the lower reaches of the Volgo-Akhtubinsk bottom land, winter flood conditions developed. Brigades of demolition experts were sent out to obstructions on the Volga.

Power engineering specialists of the hydroelectric station and specialists of the hydrometeorological and other services have for a long period of time maintained strict control over the river. And although they are cautious in their forecasts, nevertheless the situation on the Volga and also on small rivers reveals that it is best to be prepared in advance for flood conditions, such that nobody will be taken by surprise by a sudden onset of stormy high water conditions.

"I recently visited some northwestern regions: there has been no snow here for about 20 years. In any case and even if the spring turns out to be prolonged and cold, the flood conditions will be raised" stated the head of the Department of Small Rivers of the Administration for Land Reclamation and Water Resources S.T. Moiseyev.

Sergey Tarasovich picks up the telephone:

"I will place a call to Uryupinsk and Mikhaylovka and inquire as to the situation at Khopre and Medveditse."

He gives the duty telephone operator at the inter-city station the proper password: "Pavodok" /high water/. Oblast and rayon flood commissions were formed in accordance with a decision handed down by the oblast executive committee. Sergey Tarasovich is one of the specialists assigned to work at the flood headquarters and thus all pertinent information is concentrated in his department. I read this information, I hear the telephone conversations and it almost feels that I hear the pulse of spring beating.

"A good flood is always a joy" stated S.T. Moiseyev, "It can be used for filling up the ponds and estuaries, of which there are a considerable number in the oblast. But first of all protection must be provided against the many unpleasant developments that can accompany a flood. For example, ice obstructions along the lower reaches of the Volga River. The ice conditions are very severe this year; they are capable of closing the river in the most unexpected areas..."

Prior to the meeting at the headquarters, I visited the hydrometeorological station; an aircraft reconnaissance helicopter was flying alongside the Volga. Two more helicopters had been prepared for operations, in the event the obstacles could not be reached via the river. In which case, a brigade of demolitions experts would be sent out on an urgent basis. Such mobile brigades were formed at the Volgograd Soyuzvzryvprom specialized Administration.

At the present time, bulldozers, scrapers and other items of equipment are being sent into the danger zones -- this includes in particular the Volgo-Akhtubinsk flood plain with its dozens of villages and farmsteads, with their plantations, all of which supply the country with hundreds of thousands of tons of vegetables. The consumer cooperation services are supplying remote farmsteads with products in the event the water denies the populated point access to the transport arteries. The orders for shipping the necessary materials to these regions include such items as rubber boots, wire, cement and kerosene lanterns. Any mistakes made during a flood situation cannot be corrected; the elements will not allow time for doing so and they are very intolerant of thoughtlessness.

At sovkhoses on the flood plain, and the water has already reached some of them, work on the erection of dams and other hydraulic engineering installations was begun during the winter. Prior to the start of the "peak" discharge of water, the Volga hydraulic engineering terminals called for the timely evacuation from the danger areas of the livestock and all feed stored on the bottom land.

On the desk of S.T. Moiseyev -- an efficient schedule presented by the Volgograd river port: a list of the ships which will transport the equipment and various types of cargo to the flood zones. They have already been prepared for work under complicated conditions. Requisitions are being submitted for additional hawser and other items of equipment.

A phone call to the headquarters:

"A batch of bags has arrived: to what region are they to be shipped?"

One recalls the flood of 1979 -- the highest water level in over 20 years -- when there was an acute shortage of bags. At that time, an article in our newspaper stated that the shortage of bags on some flood plain farms resulted in considerable losses being sustained, losses which some attempted to write off as having been caused by a natural calamity. This lesson should not be forgotten: at the present time, 50,000 bags have already been placed in storage and the grain products administration has promised to supply 200,000 more.

With each passing day, the presence of spring becomes more apparent. Work is becoming more tense at the headquarters where extremely important tasks remain to be carried out: ensuring that the spring water is used to maximum advantage for agriculture and the fishing economy and for nature itself. At the same time, every attempt must be made to prevent calamitous phenomena from occurring.

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OPTIMUM WATER UTILIZATION IN WATER ABUNDANT SITUATION

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 29 Mar 85 p 3

[Article by S. Sokolov, candidate of agricultural sciences and chief agronomist at the Main Administration for Feed, Meadows and Pastures of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture: "Flood Waters In Behalf of the Crops"]

[Text] Deep layers of snow and complete thawing of such snow promise to provide an unusual abundance of flood water. How best to use the spring runoff of rivers in the interest of increasing the yields? What can be done to ensure that more than 16 million hectares of floodplain kolхоз and sovkhos mowing and pasture land achieve their maximum productivity?

The arid conditions of recent years have produced a situation wherein the valuable grass stands of flooded meadows (owing to the absence of annual wetting by flood waters and fertilization by sediment) have deteriorated. Common types of mixed grasses are now occupying the places once occupied by cereal and leguminous grasses. The water meadows in a number of regions throughout the country are being transformed into dry grassland meadows and this is reducing sharply their yields and the harvest of feed.

In accordance with an evaluation provided by the USSR Hydrometsentr [Hydrometeorological Center], an exceptionally great amount of water is expected on rivers in Moscow, Vladimir, Ivanovo, Yaroslavl, Ryazansk, Kursk, Luga, Voronezh, Lipetsk, Belgorod and Rostov oblasts. According to the forecast, the flood waters on rivers in the Ukraine, Moldavia, Kazakhstan and Belorussia will be 0.5-1 meter higher than usual.

On the Ingul and Yuzhnyy Bug rivers, the water level will rise to 3 meters higher than usual. And this means that inundation meadows which were not flooded earlier will receive an ample amount of moisture. These are precisely the lands which should be provided with an application of mineral fertilizer after the flood water has passed, in order to obtain a full-value first cutting of the grasses. In addition, the regrassing of low productivity grass stands should be carried out.

The majority of the grasses endure flood conditions for up to 15-20 days. Thus it is quite possible for the flood plain grass stands in a number of regions to become retted. The RAPO [rayon agroindustrial association] councils and the farm leaders and specialists are under an obligation to display timely concern for ensuring that such tracts are restored -- resown in meadow plants.

The value of carrying out surface improvements on flooded meadows must not be underestimated. Over the past few years, in Siberia and the Far East, this method was employed for raising the productivity of more than 700,000 hectares of flood plain lands. Surface improvements to such land, mainly by means of fertilization, are being carried out extensively in Moscow, Vladimir, Ryazan and Kaluga oblasts and in the Mordovian, Tatar and Yakutsk ASSR's.

This work is turning out to be extremely effective at the present time: the flood plain land is characterized by an ability to provide a high return from the use of fertilizers. Many farms are obtaining 60-70 quintals of hay per hectare over large areas. For example, over a period of 3 years the average yield of hay at the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin and the Krasnaya Poyma Experimental-Production Farm in Lukhovitskiy Rayon in Moscow Oblast, from an area in excess of 2,500 hectares, was 70-75 quintals. However, it bears mentioning that full use is not being made of the potential afforded by the flood plain haying and pasture lands and on a number of farms, even on improved meadows, extremely low yields are being obtained.

This year, as a result of the efficient use of surface runoff, a considerable expansion is possible in the multiple-cutting use of grass stands, a method which is being employed on 800,000 hectares at the present time. Moreover, the nutritional value of the feed is raised by a factor of not less than 1.5. Computations reveal that the use of this method this year can serve to provide 8-10 million additional tons of high quality hay, grass cuttings and other feed. Inexpensive feed! The production cost per feed unit is only 3-4 kopecks. The multiple-cutting use of flood plain grasses for the production of preserved feed is being employed extensively on farms in Moscow, Ryazan, Vladimir and some other oblasts in the RSFSR and also in the Ukraine, Belorussia and Lithuania.

This year's flood conditions are considered to be a matter of general concern. The local soviet, agricultural and aquicultural organs, based upon coordinated actions, must implement a complex of organizational and agrotechnical measures at the kolkhozes and sovkhoses aimed at raising the productivity of the flood plain meadows.

Importance is also attached to ensuring that schedules are developed in all of the republics and oblasts for the planned withdrawal of water from reservoirs, in keeping with the farm requirements for watering their flood plain meadows. Unfortunately, it still happens all too frequently that the hydraulic engineers release water from the reservoirs without taking into account the interests of agriculture. As a result, flood conditions develop on meadows on which grasses are already growing. This can cause irreparable harm to the "feed storehouse."

This year's flood conditions are extensive and strong and they constitute a great gift of nature. The skilful and thrifty use of these flood conditions will serve to raise the productivity of the flood plain meadows, increase the amount of high-value green feed being obtained from such land and ensure the most complete use of the potential fertility of the flood plain lands.

SPRING FIELD PREPARATIONS IN STAVROPOL KRAY DISCUSSED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 22 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by S. Timofeyev, Stavropol Kray: "In Complete Readiness"]

[Excerpts] Spring is coming into its own in Stavropol Kray and soon the rapidly ripening soil will make it possible to move out onto the fields for moisture-retention purposes the first units equipped with harrows and thereafter the sowing machines. Approximately 57,000 machine operators will participate in the spring field operations. There will be work for everybody. In particular, the severe winter caused serious damage to the barley. The seed required for resowing and undersowing is available in all areas and the agricultural service is outlining specific measures for carrying out repair work on each individual field.

Recently the bureau of the kray CPSU committee discussed the work of the Sovetskiy Rayon Party Committee in providing direction for agriculture. Serious shortcomings were uncovered in the work of the agricultural service, as well as great differences in yields, failure to provide proper evaluations of new technologies and other problems. The bureau's decree was discussed during party meetings and at kolkhozes and sovkhoses. Strong measures were developed in all areas for raising the productivity of each hectare of arable land. This spring must serve as the first check on the realization of the planned goals. It will be a complicated test -- the rayon's farmers must carry out moisture retention work on 53,000 hectares and sow early crops on almost the same amount of space.

The RAPO [rayon agroindustrial association] council examined the work plans submitted by the farms. It is clearly pointed out in each such plan what must be done and where and when, in order to obtain the highest yields. Just as in previous years, the entire volume of field operations will be carried out by consolidated complexes. Forty-two of them have been created throughout the rayon. The equipment has already been prepared. The last mutual inspections are being carried out.

The rayon agrochemical laboratory recently completed an inspection of all 27,000 hectares on which winter wheat is to be sown using an intensive technology. The kolkhoz and sovkhos agronomists have provided clear recommendations as to what must be done and on which field in order to obtain the planned yields. At the Pobeda, Druzhba and imeni Lenin kolkhozes there are wheat fields which do

not require any additional nutrients and which will furnish 45-48 quintals of grain per hectare. But there are also many fields which require two mandatory top dressings. One more nitrogen top dressing is needed during the heading stage in order to improve the quality of the grain.

The kolkhozes in Ipatovskiy Rayon expect to obtain 42 quintals of grain from each of 50,000 hectares using the intensive technology. The wheat was sown during the best periods following clean and fertilized fallow. True, in the autumn, prophylactic treatments were not carried out on the sowings owing to a shortage of toxic chemicals. Work that has fallen behind must be made up in the spring -- the farms were supplied with fertilizers and pesticides during the winter months. The preparation of sprayers and dissolving units is nearing completion at the present time and the machine operators are undergoing examinations. The rayon's obligations are high -- to sell 173,000 tons of grain to the state, including 142,000 tons of strong and valuable wheat.

In all, 350,000 hectares were sown in wheat in Stavropol Kray during the autumn using the intensive technology and 300,000 hectares using an improved technology. The possibility exists of obtaining 40 and 32.2 quintals of grain respectively from each of these hectares. This will make it possible to realize a considerable increase in the gross yields and procurements of grain.

It is becoming warmer with each passing day in Stavropol Kray. The machine operators are moving their equipment out to the field camps and the agronomists are monitoring the condition of the soil. Measures are being undertaken on the farms aimed at ensuring that moisture retention work is carried out on the fields and that the spring sowing work is conducted on a high agrotechnical level.

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SPRING FIELD WORK CONCERNS IN STAVROPOL KRAY REVIEWED

Moscow TRUD in Russian 27 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by P. Gus'kov, Stavropol Kray: "Each Hour Must Be Taken Into Account"]

[Excerpts] The last snowstorms of a winter that was unusually severe for the North Caucasus are whirling about the expanses of the Stavropol steppe regions. Pleased by the unexpected snow, the farmers are nevertheless impatiently awaiting the arrival of stable warm days when it will be possible to move the equipment out onto the fields.

If you please, never before have such thorough preparations been made for spring. The collectives of the agroindustrial complex have undertaken high obligations: during the final year of the five-year plan, to sell 2,020,000 tons of grain, including 1 million tons of valuable and strong wheats. A good foundation has been established for accomplishing this. The winter grain crops sown during the best agrotechnical periods successfully endured the winter. All preparations have been made for ensuring that not one day is lost and that the winter barley and forage crop sowings are renovated. The workers are well aware that a late spring in these areas requires well organized and tense work and the carrying out of an entire complex of operations as rapidly as possible.

The workers in Stavropol villages are making extensive use of the experience accumulated by workers in Ipatovskiy Rayon, who initiated a socialist competition. The purpose of this competition was not only to ensure the timely preparation of all of the machines and units but also the high quality and conscientious repair of such equipment in the interest of ensuring that it would not break down in the field.

"At the present time, on all farms throughout the kray, the tractors and sowing and soil cultivation implements have all been adjusted and tuned and the required supplies of seed, mineral fertilizers and chemicals for combating pests have been created" stated the deputy head of the Department of Agriculture of the kray party committee V. Chebanov, "We are now devoting a maximum amount of attention to ensuring the availability of fuel and lubricating materials.

This year has become an important stage for the Stavropol farmers. The program for the production of strong and valuable wheats has required abrupt changes

in the usual agricultural practices. Last year the intensive methods for grain production were tested on the fields of the kolkhozes Rossiya in Novoaleksandrovskiy Rayon, Pobeda in Petrovskiy Rayon and in a number of other rayons. The high effectiveness of the methods recommended by scientists was proven and this year the intensive technology will be employed on 350,000 hectares, with grain also being grown on 300,000 hectares using the improved technology. The foundation required for the production of high quality grain has also been created in combination with the soil-protective system of farming. This task required a reorganization of the strategy employed for preparing for spring. Special attention was given throughout the kray to the formation of a complex of machines for use on those fields set aside for use of the intensive and industrial methods. Within a short period of time, the enterprises of Sel'khoztekhnika organized and ensured the production of the equipment required for the chemical treatment of crops and almost 90 percent of the deliveries of new units to the kray were carried out. Only reductor-dusting units, required for May, are still being awaited.

All of these innovations are being taken into account during the course of carrying out the socialist competition in the spring operations. The kray's professional trade union organizations organized a study in the labor collectives of the practice of introducing cost accounting procedures into operations and of the experience in the use of economic levers, which was accumulated and which proved its effectiveness on some of the best farms in Stavropol Kray, such as the kolkhozes Kaz'minskiy in Kochubeyevskiy Rayon, imeni Lenin in Sovetskiy Rayon and Rossiya in Novoaleksandrovskiy Rayon. During meetings recently held in the labor collectives of farmers, dedicated to the results of the special Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, obligations were undertaken aimed at completing the spring work in just 5-7 days and at ensuring a high quality in carrying out this work, so as to make it possible to obtain high and guaranteed yields during the final year of the five-year plan and worthily prepare for the 27th CPSU Congress.

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SEED PREPARATION PROGRESS, PROBLEMS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Sep 84 p 1

[Article: "Seed -- A Guarantee for a Good Harvest"]

[Text] The harvest operations are nearing completion on the fields in Kazakhstan. The chief efforts of the agricultural workers are presently being directed towards gathering in all of the crops grown, in a timely manner and without losses, and shipping them to the state's silos. And in harvesting this year's grain, they are also simultaneously laying the foundation for the future harvest.

In discussing the urgent tasks confronting the republic's farmers, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and 1st Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan Comrade D.A. Kunayev, during the 14th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, emphasized: "Daily concern must be displayed for the fate of the future harvest. In addition to carrying out the harvesting and procurement of feed, the autumn plowing must be conducted on a timely basis and in a high quality manner, the fallow fields must be properly tended, the sowing of winter crops must be carried out during the best periods and a high quality seed fund must be established."

It was established long ago in agriculture: after threshing his grain, a good farmer first of all places seed in storage. Indeed, it is said and with good reason among the people: "A harvest begins with seed." The level for the gross yield of grain and other products in 1985 -- the final year of the 11th Five-Year Plan -- is dependent to a decisive degree upon the periods during which the seed is prepared and also upon the quality of that seed.

This year the Kazakhstan farmers must lay in 3,284,000 tons of seed for the spring crops. A considerable amount of work has already been carried out. As of today, the republic's sovkhozes and kolkhozes, notwithstanding the hot busy season, have succeeded in laying away 2,866,000 tons, or 87 percent of the plan. Just as in previous years, the workers in the virgin land oblasts have set a fine example. Here the workers of Tselinograd and northern Kazakhstan were the first to cope with their tasks. The workers in Kokchetav and Surgay oblasts are completing their work of laying in seed. And the Pavlodar grain growers are slow in carrying out their work, despite the fact that the harvest rates in the oblast are good.

The farms in Ural and Aktyubinsk oblasts, which have already completed their grain harvest operations, are clearly late in procuring their seed. What is the reason for this? Here some of the RAPO (rayon agroindustrial association) councils and the party and soviet organs have neglected this urgent work. And indeed a number of sovkhoses and kolkhoses here are from year to year failing to satisfy their own requirements for 1st class seed, but rather are importing such seed from neighboring rayons and oblasts.

Earlier, a seed shortage was constantly being experienced in Dzhambul Oblast. However, recently the oblast and rayon party committees have begun to devote greater attention to this problem and they are dealing more strictly with those who are careless in their work. And the situation has changed. Now, for the very first time and within a brief period of time, the oblast has procured the required amount of its own seed for the spring crops.

The workers in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast procured their own seed in good time. In comparison, Alma-Ata Oblast does not look so good. Here only approximately 35,000 tons of seed were laid away in behalf of the future harvest, instead of 53,000 tons as called for in the plan, that is, only approximately two thirds. Such a low indicator can in no way be justified. An especially alarming situation has developed in Dzhambul'skiy, Iliyskiy and Kurtinskiy rayons. If urgent and effective measures are not undertaken, these rayons will have to request assistance from their neighbors.

In laying away their seed, the Kazakhstan farmers are today showing a greater preference for those varieties and hybrids of crops which are capable, under the specific conditions found in a zone or rayon or on a farm, of furnishing higher yields and of resisting to a better degree unfavorable environmental factors. The country's plant breeders, including those in our republic, have in recent years bred many highly productive varieties of wheat, rye, barley, millet, rice and corn. However, the creation of these varieties is just one aspect of the work. Of equal importance is the need for rapidly propagating a new variety and introducing it into operations on the sovkhos and kolkhos fields, where a determination can be made as to its value and the effectiveness of the work performed by the plant breeders.

In addition to the Saratovskoy-29 variety, which has proved its worth, such strong and durum wheat varieties as Iselinnaya-21, Omskaya-9, Bezenchukskaya-139 and Zhigulevskaya are being employed more confidently on fields in Kokchetav, Kustanay and Tselinograd oblasts. Successful testing is being carried out on the durum wheat varieties Altayka and Almaz in North Kazakhstan Oblast. Meanwhile, the field crop growers in the Priuralye region recently converted over to sowing the highly productive Saratovskoye-3 and Ural'skoye-109 millet varieties and this made it possible to over-fulfill to a considerable degree last year's plan for deliveries of this valuable grain crop to the state.

Unfortunately, new plant breeding developments are still being introduced only slowly into operations in a number of oblasts and rayons. For example, despite the fact that the highly productive Ulskoye Beloye millet variety was created in Aktyubinsk Oblast, it nevertheless is being sown on only a small area there.

The oblast varietal seed production associations, with their far-flung network of specialized seed production farms and stations, are primarily responsible for ensuring that the kolkhozes and sovkhoses are supplied with high quality seed. However, this system is still only weakly propagating regionalized varieties. At times, some of the semkhoses /seed farms/ are even unable to satisfy their own requirements for good seed. For example, such incidents took place in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast.

The farm agronomic service plays a great role in promulgating new varieties. New plant breeding developments are introduced into operations more rapidly in those areas where the specialists work in a creative and industrious manner. Constant work is being carried out in this regard by the chief agronomist at the Zlatopol'skiy Sovkhoz in Shchuchinskiy Rayon in Kokchetav Oblast, V. Lyuft. In addition to satisfying its own requirements for high quality seed, this farm is also supplying other farms with such seed.

Simultaneously with laying in the seed, the sovkhoses and kolkhozes must without delay improve the seed to a condition such that each kilogram meets the requirements for 1st class of the sowing standard. This is precisely the procedure being employed on leading farms, for example at the sovkhoses Armavirskiy, Baumanskiy, Krasnoznamenskiy and Krasnoozernyy in Tselinograd Oblast, Zelenoborskiy, Urumkayskiy and imeni K. Marx in Kokchetav Oblast and Amangel'dinskiy and Karagandinskiy in North Kazakhstan Oblast. Brigades of experienced machine operators have been organized here for preparing the seed; these brigades work around-the-clock. Just as soon as the equipment on the threshing floors is no longer needed for cleaning the commodity grain, it is switched over to processing the seed in the interest of ensuring that this work is completed during the warm autumn days.

The rayon seed inspectorates and plant protection stations must furnish a great amount of assistance to the sovkhoses and kolkhozes in creating a reliable seed fund. In addition to exercising daily and thorough control over the course of the seed preparation work, they must also lend a hand in carrying out the inter-farm and inter-rayon exchange operations and in supplying the farms with new and valuable varieties and they must actively introduce leading experience into operations.

"Preparations must be made today for the future harvest!" such is the slogan of the socialist competition that has been launched in the rural areas. The priority task of the party and soviet organs, RAPO councils and all agricultural specialists and workers -- to ensure reliable support for each kolkhoz and sovkhos in the republic in the form of high quality seed for promising varieties. The solving of this task will provide a strong foundation for achieving high yields during the final year of the five-year plan and during subsequent years and at the same time it will make a worthy contribution towards carrying out the Food Program.

BRIEFS

LOW SPRING TEMPERATURES--Stavropol Kray--The late arrival of spring in the Stavropol Steppe and piedmont regions has delayed the beginning of field work by almost one half month. Even the southern sun has experienced difficulty in warming the arable land that was chilled by prolonged cold weather. The situation is complicated by the fact that simultaneously with sowing their early spring crops the farmers must also resow and undersow their winter grain crops over a considerable area. The barley suffered in particular from low temperatures. Under these conditions, the Stavropol farmers relied upon use of the Ipatovskiy Rayon traditions and decided to concentrate their equipment in large mechanized complexes. This will make it possible to raise labor productivity and to gain more time. Today the mechanized complexes in Stavropol Kray differ from those which were created earlier: it has become possible to assign them not to individual crops but rather to specific areas, since the consolidation of crop rotation plans has for the most part been completed throughout the kray. /by N. Styazhkin/ /Excerpts/ /Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Mar 85 p 1/ 7026

HIGH GRAIN OBLIGATION--Stavropol Kray--During the year given to preparing for the 27th party congress, the grain growers in Stavropol Kray have adopted a higher collective obligation than ever before -- to supply the state's silos with not less than 2,020,000 tons of grain. This is considerably more than in previous years. "This year it is possible for our grain growers to apply raised dosages of fertilization granules, at the rate of 2.8 quintals of active substance per hectare, to 300,000 hectares of fallow occupied by winter crops. Under our conditions, this is making it possible to program a grain crop yield of 40-55 quintals for this area" stated the chief agronomist for the kray's production agricultural administration Ye. Nikitin, as he passed comment on the peculiarities of the agrotechnical plan approved for the season. It was during the last five-year plan that the kray's farmers expanded their fallow area by more than twofold, increasing it to 700,000 hectares. At the same time, the application of organic fertilizer to the fields was increased from 8 to 18 million tons and this year the goal has been assigned of applying an even greater amount to the fields -- 20 million tons of organic material. In previous years, the kolkhozes and sovkhoses succeeded in raising substantially the productivity of the arable land and in lowering the harmful effects of frequently occurring droughts. Even during 1984, when the dry winds were especially prolonged, two thirds of the rayons coped successfully with their plans for selling grain to the state. Included among the permanent and large suppliers of wheat are Budennovskiy, Blagodarnenskiy, Ananasenkovskiy

and Levokumskiy rayons, the field crop growers of which only recently classified their land as lying within the zone of risky grain husbandry. In addition to increasing the weight of an ear, well tended fallow also improves the baking qualities of the grain. This year the Stavropol farmers plan to sell 1 million tons of winter wheat in the form of strong and valuable varieties. /by N. Styazhkin/ /Excerpts/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 10 Feb 85 p 1/ 7026

WINTER GRAIN SOWINGS--Budennovsk (Stavropol Kray), 23 Aug--With the rumbling of the combines abating on the grain fields in the Stavropol Steppe regions, the farmers in Budennovskiy Rayon today completed their plowing up of the newly released tracts in preparation for the approaching winter crop sowing period. The rayon's kolkhozes and sovkhoses have a tradition -- each season the threshing of the new crops and the preparation of the arable land for next year's harvest are begun simultaneously. Specialized teams for harvesting the straw and for carrying out plowing work are being formed in advance for this purpose in all of the complex combine detachments without exception. Such a technology, even this year with its weather difficulties, has made it possible for the workers in Budennovskiy Rayon to obtain full weight ears and to cope with their task for selling grain to the state. In all, the winter grain crops must be planted during the autumn on an area of approximately 1,700,000 hectares of land in Stavropol Kray. Almost 20 days still remain prior to the most favorable sowing periods. More than one and a half million hectares of arable land have already been prepared for sowing. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 24 Aug 84 p 1/ 7026

MASS SOWING COMMENCES--Stavropol, 17 Sep-- Sowing operations have commenced on the main grain fields in Stavropol Kray -- winter grain crops. Next year the kray's kolkhozes and sovkhoses intend to increase their production of grain by more than 600,000 tons, with no expansion taking place in the area. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 18 Sep 84 p 1/ 7026

INCREASE IN GRAIN HARVEST--Stavropol, 19 Oct--The words addressed to the grain growers, in the appeals by the CPSU Central Committee in honor of the Great October Holiday, "Attention and concern -- for the future harvest," defined the atmosphere for the labor watch being carried out at kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the steppe regions of Stavropol Kray, which today completed their mass sowing of winter grain crops. As always, the kray's grain crops occupy vast areas of arable land in the autumn -- almost 1,700,000 hectares. Experience has shown that grain crops grown using the intensive technology are better able to endure weather difficulties and, as well, they make better use of the moisture and nutrients which accumulate during the fallowing of land. With no expansion in the sowing areas, the Stavropol workers plan to finish the five-year plan with an increase in their grain harvest of 600,000 tons. /Text/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 20 Oct 84 p 1/ 7026

FINE WINTER CROPS--Stavropol Kray--The winter crop fields in Stavropol Kray have reached 2 million hectares. Wheat cultivated using the industrial technology is entering the tillering phase on fallow fields in all areas. The winter crops are good following the predecessor crop arrangements -- peas, corn for silage and grasses. Winter crops sown in the western rayons following the harvesting of late crops -- sugar beets and sunflowers -- are in the

plumule stage. The moisture supplies on the fields are being augmented. And this means that even nature is not remaining indifferent to the efforts of the grain growers or to the selfless labor that is creating the harvest of the last year of the five-year plan. /by S. Timofeyev/ /Excerpt/ /Moscow S&L'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 Nov 84 p 1/ 7026

SOWING WORK PLAN APPROVED--Stavropol--The field crop growers in Stavropol Kray, having approved their work plan for the autumn sowing operations, resolved to employ the intensive technology for cultivating their grain crops. They intend to supply the 300,000 hectares allocated for the winter grain crops, on the most productive fallow tracts of land, with full dosages of fertilizer and in keeping with the scientifically sound norms. An increased amount of attention is being given to the fallow field areas. The efficient use of the "fertility granules" allocated to the farms is making it possible to create vast fields for obtaining high and guaranteed yields on the order of 35-55 quintals of grain per hectare. /Text/ /Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 7 Sep 84 p 1/ 7026

SOWING COMPLETED--The kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the leading grain production rayons in the steppe region of Stavropol Kray celebrated their important watch in behalf of the Great October holiday by completing their sowing of winter grain crops. As always, the cereal grain crops were planted on vast areas throughout the kray in the autumn -- almost 1,700,000 hectares. Moreover, the chief food crop -- winter wheat -- is being cultivated on 650,000 hectares of fallow fields using the productive intensive technology and this is making it possible not only to increase the grain harvest but also to raise the quality of the grain. /Text/ /Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 20 Oct 84 p 1/ 7026

MOISTURE RETENTION WORK--Stavropol--Taking advantage of the war weather, the kray's machine operators have commenced carrying out moisture retention work on the land plowed in the autumn in behalf of the spring crops. /Text/ /Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 85 p 1/

FIRST CLASS SEED--Stavropol, 3 Apr--the weather this year has held up the commencement of spring sowing. But this time was used in Kochubeyevskiy Rayon for carrying out still one more check on the quality of the seed. A public inspection has disclosed that all of the seed at the kolkhozes imeni Otkryabr'skaya Revolyutsiya, Polyarnaya Zvezda, Kaz'minskiy, at the Rodina Sovkhoz and others has been raised to 1st class quality and has been well preserved. Against a planned requirement for 2,160 tons, there are 2,333 tons of high quality seed available on the farms. The inspection brigades devoted attention to carrying out checks on the storage of chemicals, on the availability of equipment and special clothing and on the organization of seed treatment work. At the same time, the RAPO /rayon agroindustrial association/ specialists are exercising control over the placement of the seed plots in behalf of the new harvest. /by S. Timofeyev/ /Text/ /Moscow S&L'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 4 Apr 85 p 1/ 7026

CSO: 1824/300

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON FEED PRODUCTION, SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 20 Mar 85 p 1

[Interview by D. Murzin with the Deputy Chairman of USSR Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika [State Committee of the Agricultural Equipment Association], V. Dubovik: "T e s t of Dependability"]

[Text] This year's cold winter was a serious test not only for livestock farmers but for industrial workers as well. The Deputy Chairman of USSR Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika, V. Dubovik, tells our correspondent, D. Murzin, about how the partners of agriculture are dealing with difficulties.

[Dubovik] In recent years the material-technical base of livestock raising has become considerably stronger, which has greatly helped to eliminate the difficulties of this year's livestock overwintering period. Last year alone machine builders delivered equipment worth 2.6 million rubles to the village. This enabled us to increase the level of mechanization of water delivery to 92-96 percent, of milking--to 92 percent, of feed distribution--to 55-58 percent and of cleaning facilities--to 82-90 percent. As you can see, the technical outfitting of feed distribution is obviously lagging behind. The current cold weather had the greatest effect precisely on this sector. Consequently, we must sharply increase the output of feed distributors.

A very important question involves improving the quality of equipment arriving in the village. For example, a great deal of hope was put into the new KES-1.7 feed distributor, which is essential for hogbreeding farms precisely now, with the overall transition toward utilizing local feeds and mixed silage for the purpose of economizing on grain forage. The hopes were not justified. The quality of the new machine does not withstand any type of criticism. Livestock farmers direct the same type of criticism at items produced by Aktyubinsk-sel'mash [Aktyubinsk Agricultural Machinery Plant] and by Sosnovoborskiy and Pyatigorskiy plants of agricultural machine building.

There is another aspect to the problem. The KORK-15 feed shop produced by Minzhivmash [Ministry of Machine Building for Livestock Raising] has received wide recognition. However, the excellent piece of equipment is not utilized fully because there are no accessories for adding supplements to feed mixtures.

I must also mention underdeliveries. There are enterprises which systematically fail to fulfill their contractual obligations.

[Murzin] These should obviously be mentioned.

[Dubovik] I am referring to Sosnovoborskiy Plant, Sariasyskiy Experimental-Specialized Plant, Buryatfermmash [Buryat Farm Machine Building Association], and Belebeyevskiy Experimental-Specialized Plant. Last year these enterprises did not fulfill their obligations as regards the delivery of green-mass feeders, scraper conveyors, feed crushers and pumps. Some of them are increasing their pace slowly this year. Now the joint efforts of USSR Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika and Minzhivmash are being directed at eliminating these lags. A schedule has been developed and put into operation for advance deliveries of the basic nomenclature of feed-preparation machines and thermotechnical equipment during the first quarter of the year.

[Murzin] Since we have already begun naming enterprises, we should also mention those that are keeping their promises.

[Dubovik] Golitsynskiy Experimental Plant of the Means of Automation and Brestsel'mash [Brest Agricultural Machinery Plant] deliver their products ahead of schedule. Neris Production Association fully completed its plan to deliver spare parts both in terms of volume and nomenclature. We have no complaints about Rezeknenskiy Plant of Milking Equipment or about a number of other enterprises.

[Murzin] Let's return from plants to farms. How is the equipment that has been installed there being serviced?

[Dubovik] According to data of USSR TsSU [Central Statistical Administration], as of early March of this year the technical readiness of feed shops and feed kitchens comprises 96 percent. The readiness of basic technological equipment has reached 95-97 percent. In all rayon departments of sel'khoshtekhnika [Agricultural Equipment Association] specialized brigades on the technical servicing and repair of equipment have been strengthened. At the same time, the overwintering period has revealed several shortcomings in the work of our organizations.

At present an extensive experiment is being carried out on introducing new forms of interrelations between the enterprises of Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika and enterprises. All expenditures for technical services and repairs are kept according to annual expenditure limits. The wages of sel'khoshtekhnika workers have been made directly dependent on the technical readiness of livestock-raising equipment and on the quantity and quality of products produced. As a result, last year the delivery of first-class milk was increased to 81.3 percent in the country as compared to 75 percent in 1980. Last year alone kolkhozes and sovkhoses produced additional profits of 767 million rubles by improving the quality of milk and by delivering it in cooled condition.

[Murzin] Vadim Ivanovich, recently we have noticed a drop in milk production and weight gain among animals in a number of regions of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan.

the Ukraine, Altay, and Perm and several other oblasts. Predictions and national experience warned us that this winter would be a difficult one. Thus we should blame our own mistakes for our problems rather than the weather.

[Dubovik] The problems that we unfortunately could not avoid during this overwintering period have, in my opinion, a twofold nature. In the first case we are talking about the negligence of individual workers who did not concern themselves in a timely manner with feed, with equipment repairs or with the scheduled delivery of equipment and spare parts. A significant portion of equipment breaks down because farms and auxiliary facilities are poorly heated. In other words, we return to the question of responsibility and attitude towards one's work.

On the other hand, the overwintering period clearly demonstrated the shortcomings in supplying the village with petroleum products and in utilizing these products economically. For example, as of 1 March of this year the reserves of diesel fuel in the capacities of consumers of agricultural products were lower than last year's by almost one-sixth. An urgent situation has developed as regards furnace fuel, the supplies of which are also smaller than last year's. Indisputably, economic tasks are just as important and mandatory for the village as they are for the city. But evidently we must continue to consider the caprices of nature, which affect agriculture, more seriously than any other branch of the economy. Here is another problem--the motor fuel allocated for this year is unsuitable for use in heat generators unless these generators are reequipped in the plant. This results in the unavoidable use of diesel fuel in furnaces.

[Murzin] Since the problem has been recognized, what is being done to keep farms warm and at the same time to economize on valuable petroleum products?

[Dubovik] We have organized the production of solid-fuel boilers in the enterprises of Goskomsel'khoztekhnika. The enterprises of Minzhivmash have produced the first industrial series of solid-fuel boilers--converters and gas boilers are being put into production. Designers are working on changing heat generators and grass meal units over to gas. The first industrial series of ventilation units utilizing heat has been developed and produced. One such unit provides the opportunity to economize on up to 18 tons of standard fuel annually.

[Murzin] In other words, we can say that the lessons of the winter will have an effect on the present as well as on the future?

[Dubovik] Without doubt. And I feel that machine builders will also draw the right conclusions for themselves.

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LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

UZBEK CONFERENCE REVIEWS FEED CROP PROBLEMS

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 3 Apr 85 p 3

[Article: "Computations Being Made For Compressed Period of Time/Making Every Effort to Complete the Sowing of Feed Crops"]

[Text] The republic's livestock farmers are in great debt to the state according to last year's work results. They underfulfilled the quota by 30,000 tons of meat and 100,000 tons of milk. The plans for the production and procurement of livestock products have also not been fulfilled for 4 years of the five-year plan. The main reason for this, as noted at a meeting of the republic's agricultural workers, is the poor attention that is paid to questions of feed production. In order to constantly increase livestock production output it is necessary to create a stable feed base with the purpose of supplying public livestock with succulent feeds on a year-round basis. Special attention in this case should be given to increasing the area in feed crops and to a high return on feed.

During the final year of the five-year plan the republic's feed producers have been assigned specific tasks--to increase the area in root crops to 35,000 hectares and to sow alfalfa on 185,000 hectares, and corn for silage and other feed crops on 170,000 hectares. Specialized brigades and links must build their work on the republic's feed fields on the basis of these specific goals.

This year spring is capricious--sunny days are often replaced by sharp fluctuations in atmospheric temperature and in bad rainy weather. All of this does not allow the soil to mature and to become warm to the necessary depth. Under existing circumstances farmers must utilize their experience and skill with great flexibility in order to use every hour and day of good weather for sowing feed crops. In places where this important campaign is approached seriously the results are satisfying.

According to operations data of the feed and pasture administration of the republic's agricultural ministry, as of late March alfalfa was sown on 121,000 hectares, feed root crops--on 16,300 hectares, corn for silage and green feed--on 6,400 hectares and annual grasses--on 4,500 hectares. This equals 61.1, 47, 4 and 9 percent of the plan respectively. In comparison to the same period last year the sowing of feed crops is proceeding with some degree of delay. This alarms and alerts us. Springtime can neither be stopped nor

slowed. Farmers understand well that the earlier they sow, the earlier they will be able to harvest. Now every effort must be made to complete the sowing of feed crops in the shortest possible time, thereby compensating for lags.

The enterprises of Surkhan-Darya and Syr-Darya oblasts completed the sowing of alfalfa on the entire planned area at a rapid pace and successfully. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Fergana, Navoi and Samarkand oblasts are close to completing the sowing of alfalfa. The collectives of enterprises in Surkhan-Darya and Kashka-Darya oblasts fulfilled their plan goals on sowing feed root crops.

Socialist competition for the successful completion of sowing of feed crops was headed by the collectives of specialized brigades and links in Dzhalkudukskiy, Komsomol'skiy, Markhamatskiy, Akaltynskiy, Il'ichevskiy, Komsomolabadskiy, Dzharkurganskiy, Gagarinskiy, Sherabadskiy and Leningradskiy rayons. Having utilized technology efficiently and having organized work on feed fields according to a precise schedule, the workers of these rayons were among the first in the republic to complete the sowing of alfalfa this year. The enterprises of Ul'yanovskiy, Farishskiy and Pakhtachiyskiy rayons are adhering to all agrotechnical rules in sowing alfalfa. They are already close to completion of work.

At the same time, the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Dzhizak, Bukhara and Namagan oblasts are obviously not rushing to complete this important campaign and they tolerate delays and a slow pace in sowing. Here the sowing of alfalfa has been carried out on only 53-58 percent of the allocated area. The enterprises of Namagan Oblast are carrying out the sowing of root crops poorly. Here only 6.5 percent of sowing area has been sown. The enterprises of Andizhan and Bukhara oblasts, which have sown root crops on one-fourth of the allocated area, also have nothing to be proud of. Also lagging behind are the feed producers of Fergana Oblast, who have sown root crops on slightly more than one-third of allocated fields.

At the meeting of the republic's agricultural workers it was noted that in order to improve the quality of farming and to develop livestock raising, cotton-alfalfa crop rotations are of great significance. Nevertheless, the directors and specialists of Andizhanskiy, Kaganskiy,, Babkentskiy, Mirzachul'skiy, Nishanskiy, Syrdar'inskiy, Sovetabadskiy and Urgutskiy RAPO's [Rayon Agro-Industrial Associations] still have not drawn the corresponding conclusions. How else can we explain the fact that here the sowing of this year's alfalfa is proceeding at a slow pace? In enterprises units are standing idle, field work schedules are not adhered to and labor and work discipline is extremely low. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Mirzachul'skiy, Gallyaral'skiy, Karakul'skiy, Shakhrisabzskiy and Altyarykskiy rayons are not paying the necessary attention to sowing feed root crops. Here the situation has been organized very poorly.

During the final year of the five-year plan the republic's enterprises have earmarked 827,000 hectares for feed crops, which is 127,000 more than last year. This means that livestock raising will receive significantly more succulent green feed. But for this all collectives of specialized brigades and links must put in a little work. Party and management organs and

directors and specialists of APO's [Agro-Industrial Associations] and RAPO's must create normal conditions for fruitful labor and good rest for all village workers involved in field work.

In connection with the late spring the traditional agrotechnical time for sowing feed crops is passing. This is why it is important to utilize every day of good weather for sowing right now. To do this we must mobilize all available manpower and technical resources.

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DEVELOPMENT OF TAJIK MIXED FEED INDUSTRY ADVANCED

Dushanbe SEL'SKOYE KHOZYAYSTVO TADZHIKISTANA in Russian No 11, Nov 84 pp 3-6

[Article by S. K. Prokopenko, Procurement Minister of the Tajik SSR:
"Improvements in the Production and Consumption of Mixed Feed--Guarantee of
Success"]

[Text] The successful fulfillment of the Food Program and the constant growth in livestock production are impossible without the development of specialized enterprises to produce feeds on an industrial basis. An important role in dealing with this problem is being played by the mixed feed industry, which has been called upon to supply specialized consumers with full-ration concentrated feeds with stability.

The mixed feed industry, a relatively young branch in the republic, is developing at an intensive pace. Actual branch development began after the March 1985 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Up until then only one mixed feed plant, in the city of Ordzhonikidzeabad, was in operation. At the present time the branch is represented by a family of enterprises which produce mixed feed for poultry, hogs, rabbits and other animals in a total of 25 categories.

The organization of the uninterrupted supply of mixed feeds to specialized consumers--poultry factories, hogbreeding and livestock raising complexes, which procure over 20 percent of the annual volume of livestock and poultry procured and over 80 percent of the eggs procured--is directly related to the availability of raw materials and to their timely delivery to processing enterprises. Only 6 percent of the total raw materials needed annually for the production of mixed feed are allocated from the republic's resources, whereas the remainder is brought in from other regions of the country. The production of full-ration mixed feeds involves many problems and difficulties at present. To produce high quality mixed feeds over 60 plant, animal, mineral and chemical components are needed. The absence of some types of raw materials and delays in their delivery result in fluctuations in the work of mixed-feed plants and in the need to create, with the help of computers, new feed recipes that reflect optimal nutritive and cost levels.

At present special significance is attached to increasing the production of granulated mixed feed. The proportion of such mixed feed within the total volume has been increased to 40 percent, including for poultry--to 50 percent.

Tajikistan occupies third place in the country in the production of granulated mixed feed.

The enterprises of the procurement ministry are doing extensive work to expand the assortment and improve the quality of mixed feeds. All of them are enriched with the necessary vitamins and microelements, which raises their nutritive value considerably and which enables farmers to economize on a large quantity of forage during the fattening of animals. Thus, 5-6 feed units are expended for the production of a quintal of pork or broiler meat in this republic, whereas in the Uzbek and Turkmen SSR's the corresponding figures are 6.92 and 9.03. Less feed is also expended for the production of 1,000 eggs--2.34, 2.81 and 3.68 feed units respectively. The egg-laying capacity of hens in the poultry factories of Tajikistan surpassed the levels for similar enterprises in the Uzbek SSR by 5 eggs and in the Turkmen SSR--by 39 eggs in 1983.

The quality of the mixed feed that is produced is under the constant control of the republic's production laboratory of the mixed feed industry and of plant laboratories, which are equipped with the newest equipment and machines. Moreover, twice a year republic quality inspections are organized, the victors of which represent the republic's mixed feed industry at all-union inspections. Based on these results the collective of the mixed feed plant of Kayrakkumskiy Combine of Grain Products imeni M. I. Kalinin was awarded the Diploma of the USSR VDNKh [Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR] and four bronze medals.

At the same time, the intensive development of the republic's mixed feed industry is being hindered by the shortage of raw materials. Thus, due to the shortage of protein raw materials in the country, enterprises have been allowed to produce mixed feeds in which protein content is 17-25 percent lower than the established norm. Such feeds do not fully correspond to the needs of public livestock raising. According to the opinion of zootechnologists, it is important to efficiently calculate the formula and quality of each batch of mixed feed based on the special characteristics and upkeep and feeding conditions of livestock and poultry in specialized enterprises. In connection with this specialists of the procurement ministry single out possible ways to compensate for shortages of raw materials and sources for this. We came to the conclusion that it would be expedient to build a plant in the republic to produce ground chalk, which at present is imported from Voronezh Oblast. Here shipping expenditures are four times greater than the cost of the chalk itself. And after all, Tajikistan has at its disposal large reserves of high-quality limestone suitable for meeting the needs of the branch. It is this circumstance that provides the foundation for the economic expediency of building such an enterprise.

The building of a plant for the production of dry (defatted) milk, without which the creation of starter recipes for mixed feed is impossible, as well as of a hydrolysis plant for the production of feed yeasts will rapidly justify themselves with their results. Rice husks, which are now sent to the Andizhan and Fergana hydrolysis enterprises, may serve as the raw material for producing feed yeast. In Tajikistan the time has come to build two heat-

recovery plants for processing the carcasses of dead animals into meat- and bone meal. The existing Uyalinskiy Plant today processes only one-third of dead cows.

Agricultural enterprises have certain possibilities at their disposal for increasing raw materials resources. Kolkhozes, sovkhoses and interfarm enterprises must increase the production volume of grass meal, feed peas and corn, which are used for the production of mixed feeds.

Among the factors that have a negative influence on effectively using mixed feeds and on curtailing expenditures for the production of livestock products we also have incomplete planning and allocation of mixed feed funds to consumers. For example, in distributing funds for mixed feed, the republic Gosplan makes equal quarterly and semi-annual breakdowns without a consideration of the special characteristics of consumers. At the same time, sheep-raising enterprises experience their greatest need for mixed feed during the fourth and first quarters. According to requirements of directive organs, the procurement ministry sells the assets of these enterprises prematurely based on resources of the second and third quarters and this naturally leads to the undersale of assets belonging to other consumers. Thus, during the distribution of mixed feeds, in the fourth quarter of 1984 there was an under-fulfillment, for the above reasons, regarding countersales, whereas poultry-raising enterprises received 3,124 tons more mixed feed than indicated.

The effectiveness of using mixed feed in enterprises depends not only on its quality but on proper and efficient feeding as well, with a consideration of the assortment and an adherence to zootechnological norms. In a number of specialized enterprises there is an absence of feed shops in which the final processing, i.e., enrichment, of mixed feeds is to occur after a consideration is made of the condition of the herd, the essential fermenting agents and growth stimulators and medicinal and other preparations which contribute to increased effectiveness in the use of mixed feeds.

The level of forage use in enterprises usually attests to the quality of production. Serving as an example of this are the indicators of Gissarskiy and Shaynak hogbreeding sovkhoses, where 6.2-6.8 quintals of feed units are used to produce 1 quintal of meat, which is below the norm. In similar enterprises--Mekhnatabad and Novobad hogbreeding sovkhoses--this indicator surpasses 10 feed units. Here even in leading enterprises there are cases in which the inefficient use of mixed feed is tolerated. Thus, Gissarskiy Hogbreeding Sovkhoz delivered 4,688 hogs, each weighing an average of 145 kilograms, to the combine in January, and Shaynak Sovkhoz--3,3000 head weighing 128 kilograms each. Surpassing the weight of 100 kilograms and maintaining animals longer than necessary result in a 20 percent overexpenditure of concentrated feeds as compared to the norms--930 and 534 tons respectively.

Mixed feeds are also not used effectively in the production of duck meat. Up to 10 quintals of feed units are used to produce 1 quintal of duck meat, whereas in leading enterprises only 5 quintals of feed units are needed for the production of 1 quintal of broiler meat. A number of enterprises within Tadzhikptitseprom [Tajik Poultry Industry Association] are maintaining a larger

number of ducks than called for by the plan. For example, as of 1 July of the current year 1,431,000 ducks were being maintained as compared to the planned 948,300, which resulted in the overconsumption of the allocated funds of mixed feed. Taking this into account, as well as the fact that duck meat is less in demand within the population, it would be expedient to curtail the production of duck meat and to change enterprises over to the production of broilers.

There continue to be cases in which mixed feed is used for a non-designated purpose. For example, Tadzhikpotrebsoyuz (Tajik Union of Consumers' Cooperatives) annually receives 20,000-25,000 tons of mixed feeds for counter-sales to the population in return for the livestock products they sold to the state. For each kilogram of meat received from the population it is allowed to sell 500 grams of mixed feeds, and for every liter of milk--100 grams of mixed feed. In reality most of the mixed feed is used in the raypo [Rayon consumers' society] or sel'po [Village consumers' society] for their own private plots or it is sold to citizens who sell their livestock to procurement bureaus of consumers' cooperatives. Some subdivisions of consumers' cooperatives sell mixed feed for procured honey, eggs and wool.

The directors of some kolkhozes and sovkhoses who receive mixed feed from state resources do not create farms to raise livestock or to produce other livestock products but instead sell it to the population. Thus, in 1983 Dusti and Navkoram sovkhoses of Zafarobodskiy Rayon, Leninabad Oblast, were sold 33 and 87 tons respectively, Urta-Boz Sovkhoz of Parkharskiy Rayon--409 tons, Beshkent-2 and Beshkent-3 sovkhoses of Shaartuzskiy Rayon--295 and 217 tons respectively, and Sovkhoz imeni Mirzayanets of Pyandzhskiy Rayon--259 tons.

For many years now the delivery of concentrated feeds to consumers has been carried out in a centralized manner by the truck transport enterprises of the republic's Goskomsel'khoztekhnika [State Committee of the Agricultural Equipment Association] and by railroad transport. They carry out 65 percent of shipments. Thirty five percent of mixed feed is shipped out by transport belonging to recipients, primarily to specialized enterprises. This creates certain difficulties in achieving well-paced deliveries and creates problems for mutual account-keeping. Considering the high level of effectiveness of centralized mixed-feed delivery, Goskomsel'khoztekhnika organizations evidently must also be assigned the task of shipping mixed feeds for specialized enterprises.

In distributing the capacities of mixed feed enterprises and of consumers of their products, a certain disproportion developed in the republic as a result of errors in determining the locations of enterprises. For this reason, about 40 percent of the mixed feed produced in Leninabad Oblast is shipped to the southern rayons of the republic.

Over 500,000 rubles are spent on shipments. The elimination of existing disproportions can be achieved by means of the building of new livestock-raising complexes in Leninabad Oblast.

The republic's mixed feed industry will develop at a forestalling pace. At the present time the Promzernoprojekt [Industrial Grain Planning] Institute has worked out future plans for branch development. According to them, it is necessary to put another three large mixed-feed plants into operation, thereby increasing the branch's capacity by a factor of 2.1. This will not only achieve growth in the volume of mixed-feed production but will also improve the quality of the mixed feed, raise its use effectiveness in enterprises and contribute to the successful fulfillment of the Food Program.

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MEASURES TO PREVENT FEED LOSS, INCREASE PRODUCTION

Moscow ZHIVOTNOVODSTVO in Russian No 2, Feb 85 pp 2-4

[Article by K. M. Solntsev, academician in VASKhNIL (All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin): "Preserving Feeds"]

[Text] The second half of the overwintering period of livestock is in progress: with each passing day feed reserves decrease on farms. Now the main task is to supply animals with full-value feeds in order to achieve the planned level of productivity and at the same time to avoid the overconsumption of feeds. Preserving feeds and working on a level at which the state plan for the production of meat, milk, eggs and wool must be unconditionally fulfilled--this is the essence of the tactics and strategy for the successful implementation and completion of the overwintering period.

It is very important to avoid feed losses at the final stage of the stall upkeep period. We cannot tolerate an increase in the moisture content of hay and straw, which is detrimental to their quality. We should examine the condition of every stack and rick and fill all hollows with straw and pack them. It is best to cover stacks with panels and to secure them with ropes.

The assurance that losses are inevitable is unjustified. Experienced machine operators, utilizing loading equipment skilfully, remove hay and straw from stacks only in vertical layers along the entire length and depth of the stack without leaving a blade of grass. We cannot tolerate a loosening of sections because atmospheric precipitation increases losses and contributes to a decrease in the content of protein, carbohydrates and carotene. Links that transport feeds are working properly in Detskosel'skiy Sovkhoz of Leningrad Oblast, Yasnopol'skiy Sovkhoz of Tula Oblast, Alma-Atinskiy Sovkhoz of the Kazakh SSR and many others.

With the approach of favorable daily temperatures special attention must be paid to the hermetization of silage. The filtering through of air results in secondary fermentation, which leads to the breakdown of lactic acid, a growth in the concentrations of acetic and butyric acids and the development of conditions for the active development of molds and the breakdown of easily-fermented carbohydrates and proteins; as a result, the latter's digestibility decreases by 30-40 percent and more. Experiments have shown that the use of

such silage in the rations of cows decreases daily milk yield by 1.5-2 kilograms. Losses in productivity are no smaller for enterprises which violate the hermetization process for haylage. This is why it is essential to efficiently eliminate all cracks in panels that cover trenches filled with silage and haylage.

Scientific research and practice show that an increase in the nutritive value and full value of coarse, succulent and concentrated feeds is one of the most effective methods for using them economically.

In this it is difficult to overestimate the role of feed shops and feed kitchens as the main link in the efficient use of all feed resources. The noteworthy experience of Mir Sovkhoz-Combine of Brest Oblast is well-known. Here the complex's feed shop prepares 140-150 tons of full-value, enriched feed mixtures daily on a year-round basis. Their use while annually fattening 15,000 calves achieves a daily weight gain of 1,095 grams. The complex sells the state calves weighing 497-501 kilograms, expending 5.4 feed units per kilogram of weight gain. The high level of full-value of feeds allows the sovkhos annually save no fewer than 5 million feed units when fattening livestock.

The workers of the dairy complex in Maloyeshtskiy Sovkhoz, Orgeyevskiy Rayon, Moldavian SSR, call their feed shop the farm's foundation. All feed in the sovkhos is first class and it is stored in the forage yard in excellent condition. In the feed shop the feed is mixed in definite proportions, feed additives are added and the mixture becomes characterized by a high biological level of full-value. As a result, during the past year, with milk yields of over 5,300 kilograms per cow, 1 feed unit less was expended per kilogram of milk. It is noteworthy that the sovkhos with its herd of 900 cows reached a productivity level of 4,000-5,300 kilograms of milk in only 4 years.

The achievements of livestock farmers in Belgorod Oblast, the experience of whom has taken on an all-union nature, are based on the development of a dependable feed base and on the effective use of coarse and succulent feeds while using forage grain economically. This is achieved by the well-organized work of feed shops, which deliver high-quality feed mixtures to farms. Farm specialists have assimilated new principles of organizing the standardization of feed rations for animals and are achieving the preparation of feed mixtures for various physiologic groups of animals. The work experience of Belgorod workers has been approved; it is being adopted by livestock farmers throughout the country and developed according to local conditions.

Thus, in the enterprises of Lvov Oblast, which have assimilated the flow-shop system of milk production and herd reproduction, feed shops operate according to several technological programs. Correctly selecting the technology for feed preparation with a consideration of the quality of all the components of the ration is one of the basic requirements for achieving growth in productivity. Here attention is also paid to the productivity and physiological condition of animals and the corresponding rations are prepared according to nutritive level, content of biologically-active substances and taste characteristics. This yields good results. This type of work principle for the feed shop can be utilized by many enterprises.

The production of feed mixtures is one of the main directions in the work of feed shops. This method of feed production is used widely by enterprises in the Ukraine, the Transvolga, Belorussia, the Central Chernozem region and many other areas. It combines the possibilities of raising the general nutritional and full-value level of feeds used in mixtures and their palatability to animals. The higher the biological full-value of feed mixtures, the more active the process of synthesis of protein molecules and the higher the productivity of animals. Scientific workers of Lvov Agricultural Institute, following the example of Kolkhoz imeni 22 Parts'yezd and Prikordonnik Kolkhoz of Transcarpathian Oblast and Kolkhoz imeni Zhdanov and Verkhovina Kolkhoz of Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast determined that the use of feed mixtures increases meat productivity by 12 percent and dairy productivity--by 10-15 percent; the economic effect per dairy cow per winter equals 105-155 rubles. Specialists from many enterprises in Vologda Oblast note that warm liquid feed mixtures have an especially positive effect on the physiological condition and milk yield of cows under winter conditions.

When determining the general nutritive value of a mixture we must consider the quality class of coarse and succulent feeds comprising the mixture. It has been determined that the content of feed units and digestible protein in first and second class hay, haylage and silage is 39, 36 and 61 percent higher respectively than in third class and unclassified feeds.

One of the main tasks of feed preparation involves raising the quality of feeds with a low nutritive value. Including up to 35-40 percent (in mass) winter crop straw in the feed mixtures for beef and dairy cattle without preliminary treatment is not effective. It is especially important that this be taken into account by enterprises of those regions where there was an underproduction of hay, silage and root crops due to the unfavorable weather conditions of last spring and summer, resulting in the introduction of large quantities of straw in livestock rations.

We should remember that fair results are obtained by the treatment of straw in stacks and in lined trenches from which silage or haylage have been removed. After filling the trenches with straw cuttings they are treated with liquefied ammonia (30 kilograms per ton of feed) or ammonia water (120 liters of 25 percent concentrate) and covered with a plastic panel. After 10-15 days the panel is removed, the straw is aired and fed to animals. It is best to carry out treatment in two trenches by turn.

It is very important to properly organize the work of feed shops and feed kitchens on hogbreeding farms. This enables us to utilize concentrates more economically and to decrease the expenditure of feeds per unit weight gain. In some enterprises workers are excessively involved in cooking and steaming feeds for hogs. It should be remembered that heat treatment of mixed feeds and feed mixtures made from concentrates breaks down the vitamin preparations with which they are enriched. This means a useless expenditure of fuel as well as a sharp drop in the full-value of feeds. Adult animals should only be fed moistened feeds and young animals should be fed feed in the form of a thick cereal. Feed is given to piglets in liquid form only during the first week after birth and then it is gradually transformed into a thick gruel. Feeds

in the form of liquid mixes have lower use and digestibility coefficients. A required component of hog rations is grass or hay meal (from legume hay). Up to 40-50 percent of concentrates can be replaced by good mixed silage in hog rations.

Over 90,000 feed shops and kitchens have been built in the country's livestock-raising farms. This is a sufficiently powerful technical base for processing, mixing and enriching rations with a low level of concentrated feeds. The achievement of a high level of productivity of animals is unthinkable now without the well-organized work of feed shops.

In preparing feeds every ton of feed mixture containing straw that has undergone complete technological treatment in the feed shop has 120-150 feed units of additional nutritive value, and this is equivalent to a savings of up to 1.5 quintals of concentrates.

However, there are many enterprises in which feed shops and kitchens operate one shift, in a poorly paced manner with frequent idleness, throughout the entire stall-maintenance period. Many work on old equipment using primitive technology and do not satisfy the needs of farms for high-quality feed mixtures. For example, it is precisely in this way that we can characterize the work of shops (feed kitchens) in many enterprises of Kalinin Oblast. Here of 720 enterprises only a few have feed shops with modern equipment; the rest have old, small-capacity feed kitchens. Over one-third of the livestock herd receives coarse feeds without any type of preparation for feeding. It is probably for this reason that dairy productivity dropped noticeably here beginning with the first month of the stall-maintenance period. A similar situation developed in many enterprises of Smolensk Oblast.

Serious complaints can be directed against USSR Minzhivmash [Ministry of Machine Building for the Livestock Industry] with regard to equipping feed shops and to renovating them technically. At the present time, up to 60-70 million tons of straw are fed to animals on livestock raising farms. Straw was, is and will remain a compulsory component of the feed balance of livestock raising farms in most enterprises, except those in the northern region. Industry is increasing, albeit slowly, the production of caustic and calcined soda, ammonia and lime. Effective technologies have been worked out to treat straw that enable us to raise their nutritive value by a factor of 1.5-2. In connection with this, constant improvements in treatment technology is one of our most urgent goals. Unfortunately, plants of Minzhivmash still have not assimilated the mass production of highly productive machines for the chemical treatment of straw within uninterrupted flow technology. This is why enterprises are forced to make large expenditures of manual labor to carry out all straw-treatment operations, to develop various technical adaptations of their own and often to retreat from technological rules. All of this noticeably decreases the effectiveness of chemical treatment. This is why we very much need a good dependable machine to chemically process straw for large, average and small farms in both stationary and mobile variants.

A careful attitude toward feeds was always identified with the understanding that a drop in quality or feed losses during storage would not be tolerated.

With the development of a state system of controls over feed quality (1977) a real possibility arose to analyze the situation involving the quality level of coarse and succulent feeds in every enterprise, rayon, kray, oblast and republic and in the country as a whole. On the basis of this data we can now really evaluate the resources of every enterprise and each enterprise's possibilities for increasing livestock production output.

During the last 8 years considerable work has been done to assimilate systems for feed control, for training cadres, for equipping laboratories and for assimilating a methodology for feed analysis; an information system has been established. It is essential to note that during the first 3 years after the introduction of the control system there was a tendency toward decreased feed quality. In subsequent years, thanks to the carrying out of measures to improve feed quality in enterprises, the share of first and second class hay, haylage and silage increased.

In 1984 work to further improve feed quality actively continued. In the enterprises of the Ukrainian SSR the proportion of good hay in total amount procured increased to 73 percent; in the Belorussian SSR--to 93 percent; and in the Latvian SSR--to 94 percent. The quality of haylage increased, especially in the enterprises of the Lithuanian SSR--to 89 percent and in the Estonian SSR--to 96 percent. More high-quality silage was procured in the Kazakh SSR (70 percent), the Azerbaijan SSR (80 percent) and the Ukrainian SSR (83 percent).

The improvement in feed quality contributed to increasing the productivity of animals and to increasing the production and sale of livestock products to the state.

Modern science and the experience of leading enterprises show that one of the decisive conditions for the effective struggle against feed losses involves the preservation of this feed in capital structures. In recent years the enterprises of many republics have been actively implementing the indicated plans for building feed storage facilities. The availability of capacities for haylage and silage is growing; things are worse with regard to the availability of hay-storage facilities. An analysis of existing practices of building feed storage facilities shows that in most enterprises they are built without a well-defined system and technological integrity. This makes control over the quality of conserved feeds, their preservation and the organization of standardized feeding of livestock more difficult. This is why the proposal of the All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of Livestock Raising concerning the need to unify the building of feed storehouses and feed-processing shops into a single common technological complex, or a feed (forage) lot, was widely implemented.

The building of such lots is proceeding especially actively in the enterprises of the Ukraine, Belorussia and Moldavia. One of the best forage lots in Moldavia was built in Sovetskiy Pogranichnik Kolkhoz of Vulkaneshtskiy Rayon. The lot is located near a dairy complex for 1,300 cows. Its territory (3.5 hectares) was planned with a consideration of the technological sequence for the formation of animal rations. A separate sector has been allocated for

storing hay (alfalfa). This consists of two awnings, cement floors and walls of metal gridwork where hay is stored in bales. Close by are two capital storehouses with a 600 ton capacity for storing grass cuttings. This sector ends with a paved platform on which there are two AVM-1.5 units. From there cuttings move to the storehouse along a transporter. Surface ferroconcrete trenches for silage and haylage are designed for 15,500 tons of feed. Two large storehouses of the shed type, holding about 5,000 tons of root crops, have been built for storing feed beets. Beets are stored in heaps up to 5 meters high. Passing under the concrete floor is a canal through which air is blown on a 24-hour basis. The air moves along transverse low-ground channels throughout the entire beet storage pile, thereby preventing rotting and the deterioration of tubers. Beets are stored in good condition from August to June. The storehouse for concentrated feeds holds 300 tons of grain and various feed supplements simultaneously.

The feed shop is located in two buildings. In one we have the mixing and dosage adjustment for hay, silage, haylage and straw (with preliminary crushing) proceeding along four lines; in the central building there is the preparation of concentrates. Soybeans, which have been crushed previously, are steamed in order to inactivate antitrypsin, which has a negative effect on protein digestibility.

The entire territory of the lot is enclosed and has paved roads and electrical lighting. Truck scales are located at the two entry gates. Mobile feed distributors distribute feed mixtures to the entire herd of cows in 30 minutes. The work staff in the forage yard is constant, numbering only 12 persons. The lot's main technologist, who develops the feed rations, works according to a program that was created by the director of the dairy complex. The building of the lot in 1982, feels the kolkhoz chairman and deputy of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet, G. G. Kartofyan, had a big influence on improving the quality of livestock raising. Here the feed is of good quality on a year-round basis, rations are of a high level in terms of full-value and nutrition, the pace of standardized feeding is precise and there has not been a single case of the untimely distribution of feeds. All of this transformed the work of the dairy complex and allowed workers to produce an average of 3,600 kilograms of milk per cow in 1983, which is 933 kilograms more than in 1982. The complex yielded 500,000 rubles of profits. In 1984 in the course of 11 months the complex increased milk yield by an average of 305 kilograms per cow as compared to the same period in 1983. In December daily milk yield equalled 9.8-10.2 kilograms.

There is no more wasteful way to use feed than by feeding it to animals without a consideration of the animals' physiological condition. With unchanging rations a lactating cow will rapidly lose weight and her milk output will drop during the first 100 days after calving; her service period will be prolonged. A group of dry cows eat too much, gain excess weight and experience difficulty calving. Cows that have been let loose unjustifiably receive milk-stimulating feeds and do not receive enough coarse feeds.

It has been calculated that with unchanging rations the coefficient of useful action of feeds decreases by 20-25 percent; with complete feed supplies on a farm but without fixed rations according to group it decreases by 30 percent and more. We cannot acquiesce to such losses.

It is the legal obligation of every farm or enterprise specialist to deal responsibly with the efficient and special-purpose use of each kilogram of coarse, succulent and concentrated feeds.

Complaints about the difficulty of organizing normalized feeding for mechanized and mobile distribution are unfounded. The flow shop system of production organization corresponds in full measure to the implementation of this task.

A careful consumption of feeds is directly related to the microclimate of livestock facilities. This year we had a very cold winter. In many zones the cold weather continues to persist. In connection with this it is important to consider that a drop in temperature in animal facilities unavoidably results in a drop of 15-20 percent and more in productivity and in increased feed expenditures. For example, a drop in air temperature in pigpens from 16 (norm) to 11 degrees Centigrade decreases daily weight gain by 10 percent. This is why it is essential to eliminate all causes of cooling of facilities; the time gates are open for the entry and exit of mobile feed distribution transporters should be reduced to a minimum.

The growth of livestock production output during the final year of the five-year plan must follow a path of continued production intensification. As regards livestock raising, the development of this process is characterized not only by a growth in productivity but also by a drop in feed expenditures per unit of production. It is the duty of the country's livestock farmers to achieve the simultaneous fulfillment of these conditions.

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LIVESTOCK

REDUCTION OF BREED DAIRY CATTLE CAUSES CONCERN

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 30 Jan 85 p 2

[Article by A. Stepanycheva, docent at Gorkiy Agricultural Institute, and V. Mamontova, zootechnologist on breeding work of the Bogorodskoye RAPO, Gorkiy Oblast, followed by commentary by editors: "Return the 'Gorbatovka' to the Herd"]

[Excerpts] Among native breeds of cattle the Red Gorbatovskaya is one that produces the largest amount of butterfat. For this breed 4 percent milk is a regular norm. And the better animals produce milk with a 5 or even 6 percent butterfat content. Whereas in the majority of breeds butterfat content of milk decreases with an increase in milk yield, in the Red Gorbatovskaya high milk yield is associated with high butterfat content. In addition the milk of these cows contains a great deal of solid matter and protein. With regard to productivity, nature also did not shortchange the Red Gorbatovskaya. In the best enterprises of Bogorodskiy Rayon--the breeding center for this breed--excellent milk yields were achieved. Thus, in Krest'yanin Kolkhoz each cow yields 4,350 kilograms, in Novaya Zhizn' Kolkhoz--4,143 kilograms and in Iskra Kolkhoz--3,929 kilograms. Another valuable quality of the breed is its healthiness and resistance to disease, especially a dangerous one such as leucosis, its strong skeleton and hooves and its hardiness.

And yet this most valuable breed has been relegated to the unpromising category and is now on the verge of extinction. It is proposed to substitute the Black Spotted cattle for this breed. The valuable breed has been fully eliminated in Krest'yanin Kolkhoz; many other breeding farms have been liquidated. The last herds of Red Gorbatovskaya are being supported only by enthusiasts.

One of the main reasons for this is the established order for determining work results of livestock farmers. At all levels, summaries of work and competition on the farm, in the enterprise and in the rayon or oblast take into consideration only one indicator--milk yield without a consideration of quality or fat content. A situation has developed in which enterprises and milkmaids not only are not rewarded for higher and best quality dairy products but are actually relegated to the last lines of a report. Cows of the Black Spotted breed in Krest'yanin Kolkhoz yield (according to grading data) 3,823 kilograms of milk with a butterfat content of less than 3.5 percent.

In Zarya Kolkhoz a Red Gorbatovskaya cow produces 3,497 kilograms of milk with a fat content of over 4 percent; indicators in Bogorodskiy Sovkhoz are similar to this. If we translate these indicators into one common denominator and recalculate them according to a base (3.7 percent) fat content, it turns out that the productivity of the Red Gorbatovskaya in Zarya Kolkhoz equalled 3,856 kilograms and in Bogorodskiy Solkhoz--3,753 kilograms, whereas in Krest'yanin Kolkhoz, where the Black Spotted breed is raised, productivity equalled only 3,606 kilograms. It would seem that in quantity of equivalent milk the first line in the report would read Zarya, the second--Bogorodskiy and the third--Krest'yanin; after all, the first two enterprises produced 250 and 147 kilograms more milk than the third. However, in reality the Krest'yanin is the leader and the livestock farmers who raise the Red Gorbatovskaya suffer moral losses.

Incidentally, in the plan for monetary rewards this problem has been decided--for every quintal of milk sold with a high butterfat content Zarya Kolkhoz received 40.4 rubles, Bogorodskiy Breeding Sovkhoz--38.4 rubles and Krest'yanin Kolkhoz--37.8 rubles. In the rayon as a whole enterprises with the Red Gorbatovskaya breed were credited with an additional 824 tons of production for milk with a butterfat content above the base level. This is a solid increase and is equivalent to the productivity of 274 cows with a milk yield of 3,000 kilograms.

Is this advantageous? Of course it is advantageous and useful! However, even this indicator is not to the advantage of the Red Gorbatovskaya. This is why directors of enterprises are gloomy and are considering replacing this breed with another, one that is a more abundant milk producer but the milk of which contains a lesser butterfat content. The chairman of Zarya Kolkhoz and Hero of Socialist Labor, I. K. Kundik, says, "The Red Gorbatovskaya breed is a good one. However, it cannot compete with the Black Spotted breed in milk yield. If the amount of butterfat were taken into account our herd would not be inferior to the Black Spotted."

In recent years many valuable highly-productive cows have appeared in Bogorodskiy Breeding Sovkhoz. The Saga cow produced 9,035 kilograms of milk with a butterfat content of over 4 percent. There are many valuable animals in the herd of Zarya Kolkhoz. Hero of Socialist Labor I. M. Yegorov milks cows from the first lactation and achieves good results. Here many cows produce yields of 6,000 kilograms. There are also productive animals in Iskra and Rossiya kolkhozes and in Priokskiy Sovkhoz. In rayon enterprises many milkmaids produce 3,500-4,000 and more kilograms of milk with a high butterfat content per cow.

The enterprises of Bogorodskiy Rayon are improving the Red Gorbatovskaya breed by adding the blood of the Red Danish and Angler breeds. In cooperation with scientists a system has been developed and is being introduced related to the purposeful raising of highly-productive cows here, the feed base is being strengthened and the labor organization of livestock farmers is being improved. The productivity of the Red Gorbatovskiy herd is growing; last year in the rayon as a whole an average of 3,320 kilograms of milk per cow was produced--this is the second place result in the oblast. In Zarya

Kolkhoz over 3,900 kilograms of milk per cow were produced, in Priokskiy Sovkhoz--3,850 and in Bogorodskiy Breeding Sovkhoz--3,650 kilograms.

Still the zone in which the Red Gorbatovskaya breed is bred is growing smaller and the breeding base is being destroyed. Bulls which would "lead" the breed are not being raised. An atmosphere of lack of promise has been created around the breed. There is an unserious, ironic attitude toward it which naturally does not encourage the necessary mood in people working with it. The time has come when a valuable native breed may be completely lost.

[Editor's Commentary] This article by Gorkiy breeders raises a serious and important problem. Their alarm is justified. Some directors in live-stock breeding in the oblast have really followed a course of eliminating one of the most valuable native breeds of cattle. How else are we to understand the call at the recent meeting on breeding operations to begin mass crossing of native herds with the Holstein-Friesian breed? But the problem is not only in Gorkiy Oblast. The size of the Red Gorbatovskaya herd is decreasing in Vladimir and Ivanovo oblasts and in the Chuvash ASSR. In the RSFSR as a whole the herd has decreased by almost 40 percent in recent years. The size of the herds of many other native cattle breeds is also decreasing rapidly--Yaroslavskaya in Yaroslavl and Vologda oblasts, Tagil in Sverdlovsk Oblast, Bestuzhev in Kuybyshev and Ulyanovsk oblasts, Istobenskaya in Kirov Oblast, the Red Steppe in the southern Ukraine and the RSFSR and so forth. The proportion of Yaroslavskaya cows in the country's dairy herd has dropped from 8.6 to 1.3 percent. The plan for regionalization of breeds foresees increasing the proportion of Bestuzhev cattle to 4 percent whereas actually this indicator has decreased to 2.7 percent. This breed is threatened with complete extinction. In 6 years the herd of Tagil cattle decreased by 13 percent. The threat has even touched the pride of native breeding--the Kholmogor. Its proportion in the country's dairy herd has dropped to 3 percent, which is significantly lower than foreseen by the plan of breed regionalization. The initially correct process to improve and transform breeds has gotten out of control and mass non-plan "Holsteinization" was begun without a consideration of the properties of the improvement process or the economic and zootechnical expediency of this process. We feel that the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin must provide a weighty comment.

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LIVESTOCK

UKRAINIAN LIVESTOCK WORKERS CONFERENCE IN NIKOLAYEV

Kiev SIL'S'KI VISTI in Ukrainian 23 Jan 85 p 3

[Article by Ye. Hotsuyenko, Nikolayev correspondent of SIL'S'KI VISTI: "An Important Test for Livestock Workers. Notes from a Conference-Seminar of the Republic"; sections in all caps shown in boldface in source]

[Text] AS HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED, A REPUBLIC-WIDE CONFERENCE-SEMINAR WAS HELD IN THE NIKOLAYEV OBLAST WHERE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE CONSIDERED: THE MEANS TO CARRY OUT WINTER LIVESTOCK CARE IN AN ORGANIZED FASHION, THE BROAD INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLECTIVE CONTRACT ORGANIZATION AND THRIFTY USE OF RESOURCES IN THE RAISING OF LIVESTOCK AS WELL AS AN INCREASED PARTY INFLUENCE AMONG THE WORKERS IN THIS INDUSTRY

During their visit to the livestock towns with collective farms imeni Lenin, "Road to A New Life", and the state farm imeni Karl Marx of the October rayon, the first impressions of those attending the conference-seminar were that they were simple, quite ordinary farms, not noted for anything unusual. Nevertheless they have very high output. Thus, the average daily production is 10.5 to 13 kilograms of milk per cow.

Obviously, everyone was interested in how to increase the production of such ordinary and most numerous farms, which provide the basic production scope. Gradually the elements of success were being uncovered. Although the buildings here are not new, only renovated ones, all the processes have been mechanized and a continuous system of [animal] care has been introduced. Feeding stations operate non-stop, thus providing the cattle with fully nutritious feed which is enriched with all the required supplements. The young cattle are being raised by specialized sections, and thus the milk producing herd is renewed by 25-30 percent annually.

The party and deputy groups are actively working on the farms, and the livestock workers have been provided with good conditions for work and relaxation: they have everything, from the well cared for educational and recreational areas, medical dispensaries, rooms for resting and stores to saunas and hairdressing salons.

Due to the attention paid to the formation of workable collectives, constant care for a friendly atmosphere and an agreeable job, the livestock workers

have almost doubled the production in several years on these farms. The processes which are undergoing here are characteristic for the farms of the Nikolayev Oblast, where, in the last several years, strong effort is being directed to liquidate slack and to increase the dynamism of this branch.

The example of the Nikolayev and other leading farms is especially important today, when the period for animal wintering is most important. AFTER ALL, DEPENDING ON HOW EFFECTIVELY THE LIVESTOCK WORKERS WORK, THIS WILL AFFECT ANIMAL CARE WORK DURING THESE COLDEST AND BUSIEST DAYS, AND AFFECT TODAY'S PRODUCTION AS WELL AS THE FUTURE OF THE COLLECTIVE AND STATE FARMS. EVEN THE SMALLEST SLOWDOWN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIELD MAY LEAD TO GREAT LOSSES.

At the conference seminar the following were subjected to criticism for carelessness in managing the job, for lowered responsibility in the entrusted work: the managers and specialists of Ustyniv Rayon of the Kirovograd Oblast, the Artemiv Rayon of the Donetsk Oblast, the Dzhankoy Rayon of the Crimean Oblast, the Druzhba Collective Farm of the Zaporozhye Rayon in the Zaporozhye Oblast, the state farm Radyans'ka Zemlya in the Bilozir rayon of the Kherson Oblast, and others. During the period from October to December of 1984, in comparison to the same period in 1983, the production of milk and meat was decreased in the following oblasts: Donetsk, Voroshilovgrad and Crimean.

It was stressed at the conference-seminar, that some people were ready to explain the losses that occurred during the winter season by objective reasons, and that because during last year's drought some of the farms did not put away the necessary amount of feed, and also because last winter actually turned out to be colder. Of course, there are quite a few difficulties in the caring of livestock. And if these hindrances are contrasted with the goal-oriented work of the party, farm management [practices] and the dedication of the workers, then these difficulties cannot determine the work level of the farms. And you can find many such concrete examples. In the farms of the Markivsky rayon in the Voroshilovgrad Oblast, the wintering of the cattle takes place under complex conditions. Less feed was prepared than during the previous year. However, the rayon party committee and the rayon executive were able to mobilize the people to overcome the obstacles. Here they organized continuous operation of feed sections, and did everything so that each kilogram of feed would be best prepared for feeding and would provide maximal return; the livestock workers were surrounded by concern and care. By taking care of the matter in this manner, the Markivski workers were able not only to hold on to last year's level of livestock production, but even to surpass it. During the three months of wintering the sale of milk to the state has risen by 11 percent.

The results of farm management serve as proof of the great reserves which are yet not completely utilized, and the fact that not everywhere is the job performed with equal energy. In some cases one notices signs of complacency due to past successes, formalism in organizational and educational work, outdated and stereotyped equipment and methods are used when taking care of complicated tasks which are not able to inspire people towards labor achievements. For a further move forward it is necessary to make a sharp change in the attitude towards the development of the livestock care occupation, and increasing its

productivity. This requires from the party committees and managers a deep understanding of the needs and psychology of the people who are working in this field, and to seek and find unconventional means for organizational and educational activity. Such means would be able to provide a sharp increase in the productive activity of the collectives and each worker individually. Those attending the conference-seminar stressed that today, as never before, it is necessary to increase the responsibility of the APK [agro-industrial complex] partners in reaching the planned index of production on the farms; it is necessary to use the means to strengthen patronage assistance to collective and state farms, and to organize on the farms an exemplary cultural, domestic, trade and medical services. No one should stand aside while the problems concerning providing the population with the important food products are being solved.

While the members of the conference-seminar were exchanging their impressions about what they saw and heard at the Nikolayev farms, they have unanimously praised the high qualifications, and the broad expertise of H. I. Shevchenko, the chief economist of the State Farm imeni Karl Marx, V. V. Boychenko, the chief zootechnician of the Shlyakh Do Novogo Zhittya Collective Farm and many other specialists and managers, including the middle level managers. This was not fortuitous. After all, the collective contract teams, which are consistently being introduced on the farms of this oblast assist not only the professional growth of the leading cadres, they also stimulate in the committed animal breeder the mastery of such necessary habits as thrift, analysis and the art of influencing productivity through people.

The target program for introducing collective contract organization has been developed and is being consistently introduced in the Nikolayev region, and in all the rural animal husbandry sections, including on the livestock farms. Already this year almost 700 farming collective teams, representing more than 40 percent of the oblast livestock workers, participated in this new set-up. It was with special interest that the members of the seminar acquainted themselves with this practice, whose goal is to raise the role of specialists in the following: disseminating the new methods of animal husbandry, regular training of personnel and the expansion of the material base of the farms in order to introduce the collective contract organizational method and its binding thrifty economics. And this is well understood. As analysis shows, the collective contract approach is the way to achieve a big increase in job productivity and lower production costs. On the whole, in the teams with collective contracts one worker produces twice as much livestock products as are produced in the collective farms of the republic.

The organizers of the conference-seminar took the trouble to use concrete examples in order to demonstrate the most effective forms of organizational and mass-political work with the livestock collective teams. At the same time special attention was paid to the activity of the shop party organizations and party groups which stand at the head of the struggle for intensification of the livestock trade. H. O. Pohribna, secretary of the party bureau of the Collective Farm imeni Lenin, related how, due to the care exercised by communists, the work discipline was improved and the authority of farm brigade councils was being raised. These community organs keep adding more and more of the rank and file workers to management of the collectives, react firmly and correctly to

every display of poor management and maintain order and discipline on the job. Members of the seminar listened with interest to the talk by M. V. Zadoya, Secretary of the party committee of the State Farm imeni Karl Marx, about the activity of communists in the complicated period of farm restructuring, the change-over to an unregulated link organization of work, and the collective contract. The party group of Dairy Farm No 1, headed by M. V. Hvozdenko, has strengthened the mass effort with livestock workers by means of individual counseling with each of them, and the party group took upon itself to take care of the problems related to selection of personnel, and the formation of unregulated links. In order to help their comrades with both word and deed, a number of the communist milkmaids have transferred to the subsections where problems were noted. The unproductive links in a short period overcame their lagging position and the collective began to work full steam. The collective of the farm now works in a smooth manner, with high production results.

Nevertheless, the collective forms of organization and economic incentives for work in the livestock field are being introduced slowly, especially in the dairy farms. A visibly unsatisfactory job is being done in these oblasts: Voroshilovgrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, Odessa, Poltava and Kharkob. The introduction of the collective contract organization is one of the most important conditions for the carrying out of the complicated tasks that face the industry now.

On these farms people always work under difficult conditions, and especially during winter they stand at the forefront of the struggle to carry out the Food Program. Therefore, the party and community organizations, and rural animal husbandry organs should do everything possible in order to help the livestock workers have an active and effective competition on the 40th anniversary of the Great Victory and the 50th anniversary of the Stakhanovite Movement.

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UDC 637

BOOST MEAT, MILK OUTPUT; ELIMINATE PRODUCTION INEFFICIENCY

Moscow ZHIVOTNOVODSTVO in Russian No 2, Feb 85 pp 28-29

[Article by P. D. Didenko, director of the Administration of Economics and Organization of the Main Administration of Livestock Raising, USSR MSKh [Ministry of Agriculture]: "Status of Production of Livestock Products and the Main Directions for Curtailing Losses"]

[Text] At the present time we must carry out extensive work to further increase livestock production output with the goal of fulfilling the plan for the final year of the 11th Five-Year Plan. Even more responsible tasks stand before the workers of the agro-industrial complex during the 12th Five-Year Plan. It is planned to increase average annual meat production (slaughter weight) in all categories of enterprises to 20-20.5 million tons, milk production--to 104-106 million tons and egg production--to 78-79 billion eggs. This program can be carried out under conditions in which the growth pace for production output established in 1983-1984 continues. Here the task of increasing the productivity of animals and branch intensification become priority goals. In regions of developed dairy livestock raising we must increase average annual milk yield to 4,000 kilograms per cow. Extensive work remains to be done to improve the raising and fattening of animals. It is essential to curtail the fattening time of animals and to strive to sell calves that are in good condition by weight--weighing no fewer than 400 kilograms at the age of 16-18 months; hogs should weigh 109-110 kilograms.

To accomplish this supplementary measures should be taken to develop a stable feed base, to raise the level of breeding-pedigree work, to improve herd reproduction and to carry out a complex of veterinary-preventative measures.

A great deal remains to be done to place livestock raising on an industrial production base, primarily by means of renovating farms and introducing new forms of labor organization.

Agricultural enterprises have at their disposal considerable potential for increasing the effectiveness of livestock raising. In recent years the branch's material-technical supplies have grown and considerable work has been done to concentrate farms, which creates conditions for the complex mechanization of technological processes. A great deal has also been done to strengthen

the feed base. Thanks to the increase in procurement prices for agricultural production the economies of kolkhozes and sovkhoses improved.

Extensive work has been carried out by kolkhozes and sovkhoses to improve the quality of livestock products sold to the state. In 1983 alone about 80 percent of procured milk fell into the first-class quality category, which is higher than 1975 levels by 40 percent. About 47 percent of the delivered milk was cooled to 10°C. At present we plan to have 85-86 percent of our milk qualify for the first-class category, and by 1990--no less than 90 percent. With these goals in mind it is essential to significantly improve supplies of cooling equipment, filtration materials and washing and disinfection resources to enterprises.

In recent years there has been an increase in the proportion of livestock in a high nutritional state, the average weight of one head of cattle sold to the state has increased, and weight gain of feeder animals has grown.

The transition to procurement of livestock products at their place of production will contribute to a significant improvement in their quality and to a decrease in losses. In recent years extensive work has been done in kolkhozes and sovkhoses to successfully achieve this goal. Many enterprises have built paved approach roads and loading-unloading platforms for farms; basically farms have been equipped with scales, coolers, capacities for milk storage and laboratory equipment for determining milk quality.

However, work to receive livestock products by procurement organizations locally is being carried out very slowly. In the country as a whole in 1983 19 percent of the livestock and poultry in total procurement within the public sector and 27 percent of milk were procured locally.

There still has been no local reception of milk or its centralized shipment using the transportation of the procurer in the Uzbek SSR. Insignificant quantities of milk are procured locally in the Azerbaijan SSR, Ukrainian SSR, Armenian SSR and Latvian SSR although the necessary conditions for this have been created in a significant portion of enterprises.

The existing system of receiving livestock according to weight and meat quality almost completely excludes the possibility of receiving it in the place of production. Numerous studies have shown that distant shipment of animals and long periods of pre-slaughter upkeep in bases belonging to meat-processing enterprises have a negative effect on the physiological condition of animals and result in a significant drop in slaughter weight and meat quality. Thus, an experiment conducted in the Kazakh SSR determined that in the course of pre-slaughter upkeep without feeding for 24, 48 and 72 hours weight loss in cattle comprised 4.12, 5.56 and 6.88 percent respectively; dressed output decreased by 2.40, 3.51 and 4.39 percent respectively.

According to data from the Belorussian NII [Scientific Research Institute] of Experimental Veterinary Science, dressed output of hogs processed immediately after delivery comprised 63.3 percent, but after being kept at the meat combine for 18-24 hours it dropped to 57.6 percent.

In a number of meat combines with the introduction of machine removal of flesh-side fat manual treatment of hog hides was eliminated; as a result, strips and lumps of lard on hides are removed together with the flesh-side fat. For this reason, at the present time the weight of the lard actually stripped or carved away from hides is not taken into account although in terms of the imperfection of the technology for hide removal this weight may be significant.

At the same time, work carried out in 1982 by USSR Minmyasomolprom [Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry], USSR Minsel'khoz [Ministry of Agriculture] and USSR Minzag [Ministry of Procurement] in the enterprises of the Latvian SSR to determine actual stripping and carving off of lard during hide removal from hogs showed that with appropriate adherence to the technology for processing animals it comprises 0.08-0.5 percent.

The elimination of losses of meat products and of existing shortcomings within the system of procurement, transport and processing of livestock will facilitate a transition to reception directly in the place of production and shipment using the specialized transport of the meat-processing industry.

Positive experience involving delivery and reception has been amassed in the Lithuanian SSR, where meat combines receive livestock according to live weight directly in kolkhozes and sovkhoses and ship 65 percent of the total livestock and poultry that is procured using specialized transport. Expenditures for livestock transport decreased by 40 percent. As an analysis of statistical data (MTIMMP [Moscow Technological Institute of the Meat and Dairy Industry]) showed, meat output from livestock received according to live weight was higher than that from animals received according to weight and meat quality.

With the goal of improving the reception of livestock, eliminating production losses and avoiding errors and differences among enterprises and meat combines we should accelerate the development of the draft for a new GOST standard on "Cattle for Slaughter." Its foundation consists of extensive experimental data obtained by scientists during the evaluation of meat qualities of slaughter cattle, enabling us to draw the conclusion that the live weight of animals at a certain age is an objective indicator of meat quality.

In essence this type of evaluation is already in effect. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses receive payment for young bulls up to the age of 2 months with a live weight over 300 kilograms according to the prices for livestock in a high nutritional state, regardless of subcutaneous fat deposits. The quality of 3-year old calves in a high nutritive condition is evaluated in a similar way.

In the opinion of specialists, the standard which has been developed will allow us to carry out the reception of beef cattle locally, accelerate the development of specialized transport and the efficient distribution of processing enterprises, decrease expenditures for transporting animals, decrease blemishes in the hide during life and decrease production losses. At the same time, this will considerably increase responsibility for the preservation of the herd and of products during transport, pre-slaughter upkeep and processing of livestock.

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JAN-FEB STOCKRAISING FIGURES REVIEWED

PM201120 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 11, Mar 85 (signed to press 13 Mar 85) p 18

[Unattributed "Statistical Summary": "Stockraising on Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes"]

[Text] The editorial office has received the USSR Central Statistical Administration's figures on the state of stockraising on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-February 1985.

The most crucial period of the livestock wintering has now begun on the kolkhoz and sovkhoz stock units. The farms are rigorously recording all remaining feed reserves. Stock breeders are striving to expend them more thriftily and to produce more output with less expenditure of forage.

I. Production of Livestock Products

In January-February this year the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes had the following results in the production of livestock products:

| Indicators | January-February 1985 | Jan-Feb 1985 as per- centage of Jan-Feb 1984 |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Meat production (sale of livestock and poultry for slaughter, live weight), thousand metric tons of which: | | |
| cattle | 3,080 | 107 |
| pigs | 1,870 | 107 |
| sheep and goats | 789 | 107 |
| poultry | 60 | 100 |
| | 361 | 108 |
| Gross milk yield, thousand metric tons | 8,509 | 99 |
| Average milk yield per cow, kg | 302 | 99 |
| Hen eggs, millions | 8,796 | 101 |
| Average egg yield of laying hens, units | 34 | 100 |

Kolkhoz and sovkhoz meat production increased by 210,000 metric tons in comparison with the same period last year. Meat production increased on farms in almost all union republics except Uzbekistan and Estonia.

The gross milk yield in January-February 1985 was 117,000 metric tons lower than in January-February last year. It has to be noted that many farms in Belorussia, Latvia, Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldavia, Armenia, and Estonia increased their milk production. Growth in milk yields was achieved on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Orel, Kursk, Kipetsk, Tambov, Bryansk, Kurgan, Chelyabinsk, Omsk and Tyumen oblasts, Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, and several other RSFSR autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts. At the same time, the gross milk yield over the period fell on many farms in a number of republics where less feed was procured because of adverse weather conditions.

Egg production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-February 1985 increased by 116 million in comparison with the same period last year. The greatest increase in egg production was achieved by farms in Tajikistan, Georgia, Kirghizia, Moldavia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Lithuania.

II. Purchases of Livestock Products on Kolkhozes, Sovkhozes, and Other State Farms

| Types of product purchased | Purchased during Jan-Feb 1985 | Jan-Feb 1985 as percentage of Jan-Feb 1984 |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Livestock and poultry (live weight), thousand metric tons | 3,006 | 106 |
| Milk, thousand metric tons | 7,528 | 99.2 |
| Eggs, millions | 8,648 | 101 |

The volume of livestock and poultry sales to the state by kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other state farms increased by 176,000 metric tons in January-February 1985 in comparison with the same period last year. The farms of most union republics except Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Estonia increased livestock and poultry sales.

Purchases of milk and dairy products fell by 58,000 metric tons (the January-February 1985 period had 1 fewer calendar day than the corresponding period last year, and this affected the volume of production of these products).

Egg sales to the state in January-February 1985 increased by 84 million in comparison with the same period last year. In terms of the rate of growth of egg purchases the leading farms are those of Kirghizia, Tajikistan and Georgia.

III. Production and Purchases of Livestock Products by Union Republic

Union Republic Jan-Feb 1985 as Percentage of Jan-Feb 1984

| | Production | | | Purchases | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| | Meat | Milk | Eggs | Livestock and Poultry | Milk | Eggs |
| USSR | 107 | 99 | 101 | 106 | 99.2 | 101 |
| RSFSR | 105 | 98 | 102 | 104 | 98 | 102 |
| of which the non-chernozem zone | 103 | 98 | 102 | 102 | 99 | 102 |
| Ukrainian SSR | 114 | 97 | 100.2 | 114 | 98 | 99.4 |
| Belorussian SSR | 109 | 109 | 99.2 | 109 | 108 | 100.5 |
| Uzbek SSR | 72 | 79 | 96 | 67 | 84 | 84 |
| Kazakh SSR | 100.2 | 97 | 105 | 96 | 97 | 103 |
| Georgian SSR | 107 | 103 | 115 | 115 | 105 | 107 |
| Azerbaijan SSR | 108 | 104 | 103 | 109 | 103 | 106 |
| Lithuanian SSR | 116 | 105 | 103 | 103 | 104 | 105 |
| Moldavian SSR | 103 | 103 | 105 | 102 | 106 | 106 |
| Latvian SSR | 118 | 108 | 90 | 119 | 108 | 95 |
| Kirghiz SSR | 159 | 95 | 112 | 148 | 96 | 113 |
| Tajik SSR | 101 | 97 | 116 | 99.2 | 98 | 112 |
| Armenian SSR | 110 | 102 | 93 | 113 | 105 | 94 |
| Turkmen SSR | 102 | 99.8 | 99.97 | 115 | 99.6 | 103 |
| Estonian SSR | 99.6 | 100.9 | 94 | 99.6 | 100.6 | 98 |

In addition, procurement organizations purchased 58,000 metric tons of milk and 89,000 metric tons of livestock from the population's personal plots.

IV. Livestock Numbers

As of 1 March 1985 there were 95.2 million head of cattle on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, which is 1.2 million more than on the same date last year. There were 29.5 million cows. The pig population totaled 58.5 million. Sheep and goats numbered 122.4 million. The number of poultry reached 734 million, which is an increase of 12.8 million.

During this final period of the wintering front-ranking farms are devoting particular attention to the safekeeping of animals and the organized management of spring breeding in the breeding herd in order to lay the foundations for growth of stock unit productivity in the summer. Daily analysis of the results of competition in collectives and broad dissemination of the best experience in work organization constitute an important condition for the growth of production of livestock products.

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SOCIAL, ECONOMIC FACTORS IN FOOD PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSED

Moscow EKONOMIKA SEL'SKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA in Russian No 2, Feb 85 pp 49-54

[Article by I. Suslov, doctor of economic sciences and professor: "Socio-Economic Trends and the Effectiveness of the Implementation of the Food Program"]

[Text] The Food Program occupies an important place in improving the economy of developed socialism. As the first big step in implementing the programmed-special purpose method of socialist planning, it predetermines the main tasks and parameters of development of the economy's agricultural sector and other related branches belonging to the country's agro-industrial complex.

Agriculture plays an important role within the structure of the national economy, in satisfying the needs and interests of workers and society as a whole, in balancing the most important elements of the economy and in increasing the economic potential of socialism. By its nature and significance the Food Program has large-scale goals and socio-economic tasks. These correspond to the structure of goals for developing agriculture within a socialist society.

The most important task in the operation of the economy's agricultural sector involves the stable supply of the population with all types of food products, the accelerated growth in consumption of high-quality products and a considerable improvement in the structure of nutrition. Speaking in categories of political economy, this task consists of significant growth in the volume of use values, which make up the material basis for the natural-physical form of the economic effectiveness of socialist production. Increasing material goods and improving their quality structure are the main goals of the function and development of socialist production in general and of agricultural production in particular since it satisfies a priority vital need in people--the need for food products.

This goal must be fulfilled in an economic way, firstly by means of increasing labor productivity of village workers and of the systematic curtailment of the number of workers recruited from cities and of those working in kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Thus, the second important task in agriculture consists of the steadfast drop in the labor-intensity of food production output.

The freeing of workers is possible, naturally, on the basis of a more rapid growth in labor productivity as compared to growth in products produced.

Under conditions of preserving and expanding the scale of commodity-money relations, the effect of the agricultural sector of the economy on the formation of the country's national income, on balancing income and outlays in the state budget, on the level and dynamics of subsidies to consumers of agricultural products from state resources and on foreign exchange accounts in the export-import of food products is considerable. Also, the stable financial-economic status of kolkhozes and sovkhoses themselves is one of the most important conditions for their effective operation. Thus, increasing the cost of the form of the end result in agricultural operations is also an important goal of their function and development.

The professional skill, experience and knowledge of village workers serve as a condition for the growing contribution of the agricultural sector to the country's food fund and society's national income. This condition in turn is the result of preceding labor activity embodied, figuratively speaking, in the intellectual potential of agricultural enterprises and institutions. A growth in this potential, i.e. an improvement in the professional qualifications of agricultural workers and the efficient use of labor resources, plays an ever-increasing role in the goal-oriented activity of kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

Land and its fertility are the basic, decisive means of production in the agricultural sector. Agriculture differs from other branches of the national economy as a result of this factor and of the consequences arising from this. Without increasing manpower it is impossible to achieve growth in farm products and growth in agricultural production in general. According to K. Marx, farmers, like good fathers of families, must leave the land in an improved state for subsequent generations. This is an important condition for socio-economic progress in society.

Thus, kolkhozes and sovkhoses must not only utilize land resources efficiently but also steadfastly increase its fertility as well. This function within the structure of agricultural goals has a non-transitional significance. As industrialization and urbanization of public activity increase the given goal becomes more and more urgent within that system of goals as well as within indicators that evaluate the operation of agricultural enterprises.

Today the socio-economic structure of agriculture is basically represented by kolkhozes and sovkhoses. They are the main link in the agricultural economy. Workers of these enterprises are distributed throughout village settlements, the social infrastructure of which, i.e. objects of the municipal-everyday and housing industries, health, culture, children's and school facilities and so forth, lags considerably behind city conditions. Under contemporary conditions, the accelerated development of culture and living conditions in the village and the elimination of considerable differences between cities and villages take their place among the most important tasks and goals of agricultural enterprises and their APK [Agro-Industrial Complex] partners as well as a task for an improving socialist society.

These tasks are integrally related both directly and inversely. Their multifaceted solution from one five-year plan to another is what comprises the socio-economic trends of the USSR Food Program.

Following the March 1965 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee there was a sharp rise in the volume of capital investments and financial resources for the systematic implementation of socio-economic goals related to the functioning and development of agriculture and associated branches. During the years of the eighth, ninth and 10th five-year plans, this enabled us to significantly strengthen the material-technical base of enterprises and to raise the level of wages for workers and kolkhoz farmers. Concentration, specialization and inter-enterprise and agro-industrial cooperation have become more thorough and production planning and social security for village workers improved. These and a number of other measures achieved an increase in agricultural production output by a factor of 1.5, and on the basis of per capita population--by 28 percent. There was significant growth in the per capita consumption of meat and dairy products, eggs, vegetables and sugar among the village and especially among the village populations.

However, the gap between sound nutritional norms and actual consumption of high-quality products and between solvent demand and market funds of many types of food products is still significant. Additionally, growth in the volume of agricultural production was achieved primarily during the first 7-8 years after the March 1965 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. In subsequent years the growth pace was slower due to unfavorable weather conditions and to shortcomings that have accumulated within the management mechanism. This strengthened disproportion and a lack of balance in the agro-industrial and food complex of the national economy.

The Food Program foresees the accelerated elimination of deficits, especially in meat and dairy products, vegetables, early potatoes, vegetable oil, fruits and berries and groats products. Here per capita consumption of meat products must increase from 58 kilograms in 1980 to 70 kilograms in 1990; of dairy products--from 314 to 330-340 kilograms respectively on the average in the country; of vegetable oil--from 8.8 to 13.2 kilograms; of vegetables and melons--from 97 to 126-135 kilograms; and of fruits and berries--from 38 to 66-70 kilograms.

These goals are to be achieved with a significant curtailing of food imports from other countries and above all, from capitalist countries. During the 1970's the import of food products and feed resources increased very significantly, resulting in the expenditure of considerable currency resources. Thus, in 1970 the food group of commodities made up 15.8 percent of imports; in 1981--27.7 percent.

Of special importance in the Food Program is the problem of accelerating the growth of labor productivity as the basis of production growth and of a total decrease in labor-intensity of agricultural production. In 1965-1980 growth in labor productivity of village workers was insufficient. First of all, it lagged significantly behind the pace of the capital supply of labor, which has resulted in a sharp increase in the capital-output ratio of production; secondly, it did not forestall the growth of wages of workers and kolkhoz farmers and thus did not facilitate a decrease in the cost of farm and livestock products; and thirdly, it did not achieve a decrease in the number of workers recruited from cities for seasonal harvest work.

During the 1980's labor productivity in kolkhozes and sovkhozes must increase by 50 percent. About half of this increase will achieve a growth in production volume and the other half will free those who are involved in manual, heavy and labor-intensive operations.

Under contemporary conditions, there is a convergence of the growth pace of labor productivity in agriculture and other branches of the national economy with a tendency toward outstripping the dynamics of the agricultural sector. This is a natural consequence of the industrialization of agriculture, of improving techniques and production technology and organization, of the accelerated development of biology and genetics and of a more thorough knowledge and utilization of natural law.

Growth in labor productivity in kolkhozes and sovkhozes simultaneously increases their contribution to the country's national income, improving financial-economic proportions and the balance of cost structures within the national economy.

The participation of agriculture in balancing the financial-money structure is quite considerable, as evidenced by a number of factors, including the dynamics of growth in the country's national income during good-harvest and bad-harvest years. During years with favorable weather conditions it increases by 25-28 billion rubles; during unfavorable--by 10-12 billion rubles.

In 1981-1983 national income produced within agriculture (in actual prices) equalled a total of 263.5 billion rubles, or an average of 87.8 billion rubles for each of 3 years of the five-year plan. However, its total size was still inadequate for strengthening the financial-economic situation of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and for the gradual elimination of subsidies, the amount of which has reached several billion rubles for food products alone.

The growing gap between growing procurement and stable retail prices for agricultural commodities naturally leads to a growth in subsidies to consumers of agricultural products. In 1983 subsidies exceeded a billion rubles. The basis for their increase has to do with the increase in the cost of kolkhoz and sovkhoz production. During the 1970's production expenses for the basic types of farming and livestock products increased by a factor of 1.5-2, which resulted on the one hand in a low level of profitability and unprofitability in many enterprises and on the other hand--in a growth of subsidies from the state budget for the consumers of the products coming from these enterprises.

In order to improve the financial-economic situation of enterprises, procurement prices for many types of products were increased according to documents of the May 1982 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. In addition, resources were allocated for the introduction of supplements to basic procurement prices for products received from weak agricultural enterprises with unfavorable economic conditions. Supplements are differentiated for kolkhozes and sovkhozes by oblast and rayon administrative organs.

These and a number of other measures of a financial-economic nature (decrease and extension of payments of a portion of loans, changes in conditions for

taxation and finance payments) significantly raised kolkhoz and sovkhos income, and strengthened the cost-accounting factor of their economies. As noted at the second session of the 11th convention of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on the whole agricultural production is now profitable. There has been a significant growth in profits and the financial situation of agricultural enterprises has become stable. This creates the necessary economic conditions for the extensive development of economic initiative.

Despite the short period of time that has gone by since the passage of the Food Program, it is now possible to confidently confirm the favorable changes that have taken place in the production of many valuable food products. Positive changes have been noted in livestock raising; the yield of vegetables and fruits has increased significantly. This has enabled us to improve the structure of nutrition of the Soviet people. However, due to the extremely unfavorable conditions of recent years there has been an underproduction of agricultural products as compared to the volumes foreseen by the five-year plan. This has an effect on the supply of raw materials to industry and of commodity resources to trade. This is why the general situation still cannot satisfy the needs of contemporary APK development.

In connection with this we have the task of taking additional measures to facilitate the overall intensification of agricultural production and to increase its effectiveness in all regions of the country, in every enterprise and in every brigade.

As the practical experience of leading kolkhozes and sovkhoses shows, the most effective factor in implementing these tasks is the strengthening of cost-accounting interests and mutually-advantageous ties between partners as well as brigade organization of labor and wage payments.

Brigade cost accounting interests workers in intensifying labor, in decreasing the inefficient use of time and idleness that is the fault of workers, in a careful attitude toward technical means of labor, in their maximal utilization, in economizing on electrical energy, fuel, raw materials and material, and in decreasing damage to and increasing the quality of products, which depends on every worker and brigade. The existing system of traditions and the direct ties between material and moral incentives and end results strengthens the effectiveness of cost accounting.

Factors involving intensity under these conditions are related to the discipline of workers and of the entire brigade as concerns, firstly, organization, mutual aid and mutual support based on the principles of self-government; secondly, as concerns growing professional experience, mastery and knowledge; thirdly, as concerns the introduction of innovations and the achievements of progressive experience and scientific-technical progress; and fourthly, as concerns the more rapid development of mature economic thinking. The interaction and inter-relatedness of these factors accelerate intensification and at the same time a growth in effectiveness during the given fragment of time.

It is already clear that where we have contracts there we have order in the organization of affairs and work, where we have order there we have the greatest vistas for creative initiative on the part of workers and for the effective

functioning of objective laws, and where we have the greatest vistas for creation there we have the higher end results of labor, rapid growth in production-technical and intellectual potential and growth in soil fertility as prerequisites for even greater results of labor in the future.

In 1983, in Belgorod Oblast, one of the leaders in introducing the "beznaryadka" [independent labor], the increase in grain production comprised 283,000 tons, in sugar beets production--500,000 tons. Of course, a whole complex of factors affected this. The enterprises of Rakityanskiy Raven, the initiators of the mass introduction of independent labor, achieved the weightiest results--average grain yield equalled 29 quintals per hectare at a cost of 4.58 rubles per quintal.

In the spring of 1984 there were 150,000 contract brigades and links on fields and farms of kolkhozes and sovkhoses cultivating about 20 percent of arable land. Their contribution to the implementation of the Food Program was greater than that of other brigades. The contract form is not a short-term campaign but an objective necessity, a basic form of labor organization in the near and more distant future and a form for developing cost accounting and making it more thorough in kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

The organization of collective contracts cannot be artificially forced or introduced by a volitional administrative order. Conditions must become ripe, otherwise formalism worsens the situation, gives rise to disappointments and hinders the introduction of effective forms. The precise elucidation of interrelations within the link or brigade, between brigades and the administration and between brigades themselves and the service subdivision and the adjustment and betterment of these relations must be improved from stage to stage, based on accumulated experience and specific conditions.

The strengthening and development of the socialist agricultural sector are being implemented on the basis of interrelations and cooperation between various types of enterprises belonging to the APK. The decisive and directing role among them is played by state socialist ownership of the means of production.

While emphasizing the basic and determining role of state ownership, it would be unjust to underestimate the significance of other forms of ownership in the functioning of agriculture in general and on the contemporary stage of development in particular. A more thorough elucidation of their potential possibilities and of reserves for growth is possible only on the basis of closer ties and mutual aid, economic cooperation and multi-faceted cooperation as the decisive socio-economic factor in intensifying and increasing the effectiveness of the agricultural sector of the socialist economy.

A strengthening of the interaction of socialist forms of ownership within the agro-industrial complex enables us to achieve a more complete utilization of the social organization of economic processes and a harmonic fulfillment of workers' interests, which is reflected above all in the systematic growth of well-being of the people, in the development of planning, reflecting demand and management objectives and millions of families in socialist society, in closer ties between labor measures and consumption measures on a national scale.

and in strengthening and developing a socially homogeneous socio-economic structure.

Close ties and cooperation are being implemented in all areas of management-economic activity—in the formation of fixed and turnover funds, in the development of objects for the production and social infrastructure, in the production process itself, in the processing and sale of end products by agricultural enterprises and in improving the economic mechanism. This facilitates the accelerated intensification of production and an increase in its effectiveness.

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses are the main link in the country's agricultural sector. They and state livestock-raising complexes and agricultural shops of industrial enterprises produce about three-fourths of total agricultural products produced. About one-fourth of production can be attributed to the private plot aided by kolkhozes, sovkhoses and consumer cooperatives.

For effective functioning and stable development, kolkhozes and sovkhoses are internally and objectively interested in strengthening planning, balance and order in long-term ties within the national economy as a whole as well as within a regional framework jointly with partners. This planning and balance are to be achieved by the national economic plan regulating coordinated development of all enterprises and mutual exchange of production goods and services. The strengthening and development of coordination are the main spheres of cooperation in socialist forms of ownership, which creates favorable prerequisites for the intensification and growth in effectiveness of all forms of management within the agricultural sector of the economy and within the APK as a whole.

As the exponent of general national and collective interests and the interests of the individual worker, the state has a considerable influence on these processes by means of a system of material-technical supplies, planned procurement of agricultural products, price formation, credit and direct financing of a number of purposeful measures with a national economic and social significance.

In the USSR land is the common national property and it is used in the interest of all the people and naturally in the interest of farmers as well. Means for radically improving the productive capacity of the soil and for increasing its fertility are formed from common national sources. Kolkhozes implement these measures partially by means of their own and loaned resources, but these resources comprise about 15 percent of total expenditures to improve kolkhoz lands.

State and kolkhoz resources used to build objects for the production and social infrastructure operating in rural areas are closely intertwined. Economically-developed kolkhozes have organized stable contacts with state budgetary enterprises and institutions servicing village populations in the sphere of health protection, education, trade (with consumers' cooperatives), municipal-consumer services and mass sports work.

Kolkhozes use their own resources and the efforts of their building subdivisions to build the corresponding objects, a significant portion of which are transferred to the balances of budget organizations in order to use these objects effectively to provide services to the population. The well-grounded combination of resources from kolkhozes, state budget organizations, consumers' cooperatives and other cost-accounting organizations working in the village enables us to more rapidly and effectively develop the material-technical base of the infrastructure and facilitates the accelerated elimination of considerable differences between the city and village.

The development of agro-industrial associations as organs of state administration and self-administration of management subjects in agriculture and other APK branches accelerates the pooling of means and resources, integrating them with the purpose of achieving a great effect for the region as a whole as well as for every enterprise taken individually.

For a long time the private plots of village workers were the concern of the families alone. The necessary attention and organized aid were not provided for cultivating the private plot, for supplying domestic cattle with feed or for selling surplus products. Material-technical supplies for the private plot were also incidental in the majority of kolkhozes and sovkhoses. This was not in the interest of village workers and of society as a whole.

At the present time we have a policy of active aid from kolkhozes and sovkhoses, consumers' cooperatives and village soviets in order to ease and improve the management of the private plot. The practical implementation of the slogan, "The plot is a private one, but the concern is general," brings optimal advantages to the public enterprise of kolkhozes and sovkhoses and to the national economy as a whole.

A strengthening of cooperation between socialist forms of ownership in agriculture encourages an improvement in the economic mechanism, a bringing together of economic management factors and legal-judicial norms for kolkhoz and sovkhos operation, and a mutual enrichment with progressive forms and methods of managing the enterprise and intra-enterprise subdivisions. Principles of full cost-accounting over a long-term period of time accumulated in kolkhozes and brigade contracts are being more and more widely introduced in the sovkhos sector. Interfarm cooperation, which was initiated in kolkhozes, is gradually beginning to encompass sovkhos production as well. By means of their own resources and credit these enterprises are renewing and expanding their material-technical base to a greater and greater degree. In kolkhoz principles of state insurance have been adopted for sovkhos property.

At the same time, kolkhozes have introduced a system of guaranteed wages based on sovkhos estimates and direct state budget financing of a number of measures of general social significance. These and other measures have drawn together the economic mechanism of kolkhoz and sovkhos production considerably.

Although a number of important differences still exist in the economic mechanism of kolkhozes and sovkhoses, they in no way create a serious hindrance to cooperation in achieving the end result. Interfarm variations are found most

frequently between agricultural enterprises and their APK partners. The latter are often governed by their departmental interests, which sometimes are transformed into narrow departmental interests, incurring losses on kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

In recent years a number of measures have been implemented that unify the interests of partners into a single end goal. A large role in the successful elimination of the given negative tendencies also belongs to improving the economic education of directors, specialists and all APK workers. This factor is becoming more and more important in increasing the effectiveness of cooperation among socialist forms of ownership.

As emphasized by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade K. U. Chernenko, a highly-developed and efficiently-functioning APK is an essential condition for further improving the material well-being of the people and for growth in the effectiveness of the country's entire national economy. The main ways to achieve that which has been planned is to accelerate the transition of agriculture to an intensive path of development and to significantly increase return on the potential that was created in kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The systematic implementation of measures, affecting all aspects of intensive growth in a complex, is becoming an objective necessity under contemporary conditions because labor productivity and its dynamics and the effectiveness of all links of the APK are being determined more and more by the interaction of economic, natural and technical laws of development.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

CPSU CC STATUTE REGULATING COLLECTIVE GARDENING

Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITEL'STVA SSSR in Russian No 2, 1985 pp 21-27

[Statute: "On Bringing Order into the Organization of Collective Gardening"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers notes that collective gardening helps produce additional agricultural products and intelligently uses the free time of workers and their families.

However, in a number of republics, krais and oblasts there are shortcomings and distortions in the development of collective gardening.

Collective gardens are often granted cropland and other valuable agricultural land of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises and organizations and land used for public recreation. Sometimes pieces of land are arbitrarily seized.

Serious violations are allowed in the construction of summer garden houses and other structures. In a number of cases, their construction, and the improvement and fencing of collective gardens illegally use construction materials, non--specialized construction organizations are involved in this work and transport equipment and machinery are used at reduced pay rates. The summer garden houses and other structures are frequently built from plans which have not been agreed upon in the established procedure. There are quite often cases where installations are built which are not covered by standard charters of gardening associations. In some regions of the country the summer garden houses being built include individual dacha type houses with garages and baths. All this not only hurts the national economy, but leads to serious deviations from the moral and ethical norms of the Soviet way of life and to distortions of the essence of collective gardening.

These violations became possible due to a lack of reliable control over gardening associations' organization and activities on the part of the Councils of Ministers of union and autonomous republics, the executive committees of kray, oblast, urban and rayon Councils of People's Deputies, ministries, departments, enterprises and organizations.

To bring order into the organization of collective gardening, the USSR Council of Ministers decrees:

1. Collective gardening can be granted sections of land from state reserves and state forest land not covered by trees, or covered by low value trees, within the limits of green and suburban zones of cities and other populated points, taking into account the long term expansion of populated areas; and land beyond these zones or boundaries of populated areas not having suburban or green zones.

If there is no such land, collective gardening can be granted, as an exception, strips and small sections of land which cannot be used for public farming by kolkhozes, sovkhozes or other agricultural enterprises.

For temporary use, collective gardening can be granted sections of state, state forest and populated point land not intended for use for construction or other purposes in the immediate years ahead, or temporarily unused agricultural land or land of industrial, transport or other non-agricultural enterprises and organizations.

Collective gardening cannot receive land so as to hinder the agricultural production of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises and organizations, or land which is used for public recreation. It is forbidden to grant collective gardening arable land, other valuable agricultural land or the land of subsidiary agricultural operations of enterprises, institutions and organizations.

2. The development of a collective gardening area can begin only after approval of the plan for its organization and arrangement by the executive committee of the rayon or city Council of People's Deputies for the area in which the gardening association is located.

3. Members of gardening associations are to be granted plots of land ranging from 400 to 600 square meters.

The specific dimensions of plots within these limits are determined by organs granting enterprises, institutions and organizations land for collective gardening, based upon land availability and quality.

Collective gardening plots are granted in amounts set by union republic legislation.

Members of gardening associations and garden collectives are obligated to rationally and effectively use the land allocated to them in order to produce fruits, berries, vegetables and other agricultural products.

4. With the exception of cases covered by USSR legislation, membership in gardening associations is limited to workers at enterprises, institutions and organizations at which such associations have been set up, and to pensioners who have previously worked at such enterprises, institutions or organizations.

A gardening association can be organized at an enterprise, institution or organization if there are at least 30 people desiring to become members of the association. If there are fewer than 30 such individuals, the executive committee of the rayon or city Soviet of People's Deputies in the region in which the

enterprise, institution or organization is located can authorize cooperation between such units to create a gardening association at the one having the largest number of individuals desiring to enter an association.

Membership in a gardening association is forbidden to citizens if they, or family members living with them and working on public farms, use subsidiary plots, plots of land allocated for individual residential construction, have private dachas or use state dachas, service land allotments, or who are members of dacha construction cooperatives or another gardening association.

5. Gardening associations have the right, in accordance with the plan for the organization and layout of the collective garden, to build, following standard plans, produce storage facilities, collective garages for personnel transport and other structures and general purpose facilities.

The only structures to be built on land allocated to association members for collective gardening are: single story summer garden houses, with a total area heated by solid fuel of up to 25 square meters, unheated terraces (verandas) of up to 10 m², and unheated mansards of up to 15 m², cellars up to 8 m², garden structures up to 15 m² (for keeping rabbits and domestic fowl, and for storing household goods), this includes shower and toilet, and an unheated greenhouse of up to 15 m², for raising vegetables and other agricultural crops. The height limits (from floor to ceiling) are: summer garden house -- 2.5 meters, garden structures -- 2.2 m, and cellar -- 1.9 m, while the total height limits (from ground to roof crown) for a summer garden house cannot exceed 6.5 m, and for gardening structures -- 3 meters.

6. Summer garden houses and other structures should be built from standard plans in accordance with the plans for the collective garden's organization and layout.

Union republic Councils of Ministers and USSR Gosstroy's State Committee on Civil Construction and Architecture will annul existing standard plans not in accordance with norms in Paragraph 5 of this statute and will, during 1985-1990, work out new and corrected existing standard plans for summer garden houses and other structures, taking into account these norms and the natural-economic features and national traditions of populations in various regions of the country.

Prior to the approval of the new standard plans, use can be made of previously approved standard plans which do not violate the requirements in Paragraph 5 of this statute.

In 1985 the USSR Ministry of Agriculture will approve normative requirements for organizing the territories of gardening associations, and USSR Gosstroy's State Committee on Civil Construction and Architecture will approve those for layout and for planning and constructing buildings and facilities on the land of gardening associations.

7. Summer garden houses and garden structures erected after promulgation of this decree must be accepted for use by commissions, formed from rayon executive committees or city soviets of people's deputies on the territory of which the garden association is located, in the order established by the council of ministers of the union republics.

8. Summer garden houses are not intended for permanent residences and are not included in the housing stock.

9. Union republic Councils of Ministers and USSR ministries and departments will support the implementation of measures to prevent violations of the established procedures for gardening association organization and activities and for the construction of summer garden houses and other structures at gardens.

It is forbidden to provide construction materials, transport equipment and machinery at lowered prices and rates, to illegally use labor power and to illegally enlist non-specialized construction organizations to build summer garden houses and other garden structures.

Union and autonomous republic Councils of Ministers and the executive committees of kray and oblast Councils of People's Deputies will assure the strictest control over the observation of existing procedures for setting prices of surplus, unutilized, substandard or reject construction materials and structures which are supplied to the public from enterprises and organizations independently of their subordination, for materials and structures obtained during the dismantling, reconstruction and major repair of apartments, buildings and facilities and over the observation of the procedure for selling these materials and structures to the public.

10. Upon the decision of the administration and trade union committee of the enterprise, institution or organization, or the decision of the executive committee of the rayon or city Soviet of People's Deputies, if the gardening association is within its jurisdiction, a citizen can be excluded from membership in a gardening association for the following: erecting a summer garden house or other garden structure after this statute goes into force without suitable approval of the plan or if the plan deviates from norms in Paragraph 3 of this statute, or from norms in the legislation of the USSR and union republics which were in effect at the beginning of construction; for the use of illegally obtained construction materials and the illegal use of labor power, the arbitrary seizure of land and for failure to use allocated land to raise agricultural crops for two years in a row.

Standard charters for gardening associations can provide for other grounds for excluding citizens from membership.

11. In the event a citizen withdraws (or is excluded) from membership, the value of a summer garden house or other structure erected by that member is determined according to price norms approved in the procedure outlined by the USSR Council of Ministers Statute of 2 October 1981, No. 961 (SP SSSR, 1981, No. 28, p 165), taking into account the wear on these structures. Their value is determined by price commissions formed by the administration and trade union committee of the enterprise, institution and organization at which the gardening association was set up. The commissions include representatives of the administration and trade union committee of the unit, members of the board of the gardening association and the withdrawn (excluded) member of the association. Representatives from other organizations can be included upon the initiative of the administration and trade union committee, or upon the request of the withdrawn (excluded) individual.

In the event the gardening association is under the authority of the executive committee of a rayon or city Council of People's Deputies, the price commission is created by the appropriate executive committee and consists of a member of the executive committee, a member of the gardening association board, the withdrawn (excluded) member of the gardening association and representatives from other organizations, upon the approval of the executive committee or at the request of the withdrawn (excluded) gardening association member.

12. Credits provided by USSR Gosbank to gardening association members for the acquisition or construction of summer garden houses or for the improvement of gardens, are allocated to workers and employees of enterprises and organizations on cost accounting by these enterprises and organizations, and to workers and employees of budget organizations through these organizations, with the personal obligation of the individual receiving the loan.

The credits provided by USSR Gosplan can be recovered early, if, after this statute goes into force, the member of the gardening collective has built or is building a summer garden house or other structure without a suitably approved plan, or if the plan deviates from norms in Paragraph 5 of this statute or from norms in the legislation of the USSR or union republics in effect at the beginning of construction.

13. Garden collectives are managed by the administration and trade union committee of the enterprise, institution or organization at which the association was organized. A gardening association's activities are controlled by the executive committees of rayon and city Soviets of People's Deputies in which the association is located.

In cases where gardening associations are under the authority of executive committees of rayon or city Councils of People's Deputies, the respective executive committees exercise management and control over their activities.

14. Tsentrosoyuz [Central Union of Consumer Societies] and the union republic Councils of Ministers will assure the organization of the purchase, directly at production sites, of surplus agricultural products grown on collective gardens.

15. A draft of the statute "On Responsibility for the Violation of Rules for the Construction of Summer Garden Houses and for the Organization and Conduct of Collective Gardening" will be submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

16. Prior to 1 March 1985, the union republic Councils of Ministers will submit changes in gardening association standard charters ensuing from this statute for the decision of union republic governments, with the agreement of the AUCCTI.

17. This statute goes into effect on 1 January 1985. Previously existing legislation is in effect with regard to summer garden houses and other structures and to the size of plots on which work had begun or which were being erected prior to the time statute went into effect.

Chairman, USSR Council of Ministers

/N. Tikhonov /

Administrator of Affairs, USSR Council
of Ministers /M. Smirnyukov/

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RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES ON COLLECTIVE GARDENING DECREE

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 17 Feb 85 p 2

[Interview with lawyer V.L. Koldobskiy; date and place not specified]

[Text] The Editorial Board is receiving letters from citizens who are engaged in or who wish to participate in collective gardening. Our correspondent N. Boroznova asked lawyer V.L. Koldobskiy, who participated in the development of new legal documents, to reply to some of the vital questions sent in by readers.

[Question] Vladimir L'vovich, many readers are expressing interest in the goals of collective gardening and in the requirements being imposed today upon those who join gardening associations. Could you not say a few words concerning this subject?

[Answer] These are very timely questions. Actually, the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "On Regulating the Organization of Collective Horticulture and Gardening," in which the principal conditions for the formation and work of horticultural associations are clearly formulated, was placed in operation on 1 January 1985.

This new decree testifies to the fact that the government of the USSR is devoting a great amount of attention to the development of collective horticulture.

Over the past 6 years, the area occupied by collective gardens has increased throughout the country from 206,700 hectares to 355,800 hectares. Compared to 1979 when 3,213,000 families were engaged in collective horticultural work, in early 1984 -- 5,630,000 families. The number of those desiring to become horticulturists is steadily increasing. And this is understandable. Indeed the goal of collective horticulture is to promote the production of additional agricultural products and the intelligent use of the free time of workers and their families.

[Question] The new legal document obviously arose out of the fact that serious shortcomings have been noted in a number of republics, krais and oblasts in connection with the development of collective horticulture. Our readers have written in concerning this matter. Is this not true?

Answer/ Yes, such violations are taking place. For example, arable land and other types of valuable agricultural land are often set aside for use as collective gardens. Incidents of willful seizure of tracts of land have been observed. There have been frequent violations of the requirements set forth in the standard regulations for horticultural associations. Private residences of the dacha type with garages and baths have been erected under the guise of being summer gardening cottages. Construction materials are being obtained illegally. These violations are causing economic harm to the national economy and they are bringing about serious deviations from the moral and customary norms for the Soviet life style and a distortion in the very essence of collective horticulture.

In those associations where the horticulturists are not informed regarding their rights and obligations and where there is a lack of control over their activities, such violations turn into serious problems both for the horticulturists themselves and for the state as a whole. Thus, some advice is in order here: if one wishes to become a horticulturist, then he or she must first study the appropriate legislation and normative documents and thereafter carry them out in an efficient manner.

Question/ I am interested in learning what category of land can be allocated for use as collective gardens?

Answer/ These are tracts of land from the state reserve and the state forestry fund, which are not covered by forests or occupied by low-value forestry plantings, within the green and suburban zones of cities and other populated points and taking into account the long-range expansion of the populated points and also beyond the borders of these zones or beyond the limits of populated points which do not have suburban or green zones.

Question/ But what if such lands are not available?

Answer/ Then, in the form of an exception, use can be made of overlapping and light-contour tracts and unsuitable lands, which cannot be used in the public economy of kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other agricultural enterprises.

Question/ Many readers are asking whether or not the norms for the areas to be occupied by horticultural tracts have been defined.

Answer/ Yes, such norms have been established. The members of horticultural societies are being allocated land tracts which range in area from 400 to 600 square meters. The specific dimensions of the tracts are defined by those organs which supply the enterprises, institutes and organizations with tracts of land for use as orchards, with the dimensions being dependent upon the availability and quality of the land.

I wish to direct attention to an extremely important aspect of the problem: the mastering of the territory of a collective orchard can be started only after the plan for organizing and building it has been approved by the appropriate executive committee of a rayon or municipal soviet of people's deputies. Commencing on 1 January 1985, the construction of gardening cottages and other buildings can be carried out only on the basis of standard plans.

I recall another important condition which should be borne in mind by the horticulturists: the mastering of a horticultural tract is understood to mean the raising of agricultural products on it and not just the erection of a cottage.

Question There is still another question which is arousing many readers. In many instances, citizens are being assigned to horticultural associations who do not have any direct relationship to the enterprise to which the land has been allocated and in the meantime there are not enough tracts available for the workers attached to this enterprise.

Answer This violation is extremely widespread, especially in those areas where only weak control is being exercised over the work of the associations. Truly, there are many "foreigners" in some horticultural associations. The members of the administration, and indeed it is an association consisting of one labor collective, explain this phenomenon by stating that a "needed" individual is acquired, one who can furnish the horticulturists with assistance in obtaining construction materials, transport equipment or man-power. Some of these "foreigners" do in fact perform useful work, while many others merely offer promises of work. Such violations must be dealt with in a very decisive manner.

With the exception of those incidents set forth in legislation for the USSR and union republics, only those workers assigned to the enterprise, institute or organization involved in the creation of an association and also pensioners who worked formerly at this enterprise or organization can be accepted as members of a horticultural society.

Question The authors of many letters are asking: what buildings and of what size can be employed on a horticultural tract?

Answer Yes, clarity in this matter is extremely important. On land tracts allocated for collective gardens, the members of associations can erect only single-story summer garden cottages, with a solid fuel heated facility the overall area of which is less than 25 square meters, an unheated terrace (veranda) up to 10 square meters in area, an unheated garret up to 15 square meters in area, a cellar up to 8 square meters in area, farm buildings up to 15 square meters in area, including a shower and toilet, and also an unheated hothouse up to 15 square meters in area. Moreover, the height of the facilities (from floor to ceiling) of a summer garden cottage must not exceed 2.5 meters, farm buildings -- 2.2, cellar -- 1.9 meters and the overall height (from ground level to the ridge of the roof) of a summer garden cottage must not be more than 6.5 meters and the farm buildings -- 3 meters.

I wish to note that in connection with summer garden cottages and other buildings which were erected or the construction of which was started prior to 1 January 1985 and also the dimensions for the land tracts established prior to this date, use is made of legislation which existed earlier.

Question A large group of letters was characterized by overall concern and even resentment. Horticulturists M. Gayevskiy of Gorkiy Oblast, V. Plitsyn of Saratov Oblast and others wrote concerning the difficulties encountered in

attempting to obtain construction and other materials and in carrying out work on the tracts of land. "Is there not someone who can furnish assistance to the horticulturists?" they asked.

[Answer] Certainly, there is. This is first of all the enterprises and organizations involved in the creation of an association. In 1981 the ministries, departments, enterprises and organizations were authorized to call for the carrying out in their plans, on the basis of agreements with horticultural associations, of construction, reclamation, highway and repair work and also work concerned with supplying the tracts with electricity and water. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes can conclude contracts with the administrations of associations for the sale to them of organic fertilizer. The members of a horticultural association are provided with credit in the amount of up to 3,000 rubles for the construction of a home and for adding civic improvements to their horticultural tracts.

[Question] The readers report that some individuals consider the horticultural tracts assigned to their care to be their own personal property. Thus, in a letter from F. Tyagun in the city of Balakovo in Saratov Oblast, it is stated that the shop windows in the city contain many announcements concerning the sale of "dachas," that is, a horticultural tract with a building or even without a building. The horticulturist himself sets the price and as a rule it is a respectable one; all documentation is handled by the chairman of the administration. Is this correct?

[Answer] Certainly, it is incorrect. It is a shame to even have to mention to adult individuals the constitutional truth which even elementary school children are aware of: the land in our country is the exclusive property of the state. It does not have any other owner or "salesman." A horticulturist only uses the land and if he violates the established procedures he could be deprived of this right. The rules for the use of a horticultural tract are set forth in the standard regulations for a horticultural association.

This document sets forth the procedures to be followed when withdrawing from membership in an association and transferring a tract over to another person. The prices for construction and planting on a tract are assigned not by the horticulturist but rather by a special committee formed by the administration and the professional trade union committee of the enterprise or institute. An evaluation is carried out in accordance with the established norms.

The sale of a horticultural tract, including it in one's will, giving it as a gift, leasing it, exchanging it for other tracts of land and other transactions which violate the right of state ownership of land either directly or indirectly are all invalid. They are crude violations of the land legislation and can serve as the basis for being removed from an association.

[Question] Here is the last question. In some of the letters, mention was made of horticulturists who receive unearned income from their tracts. This applies in particular to those who offer up for sale a portion of the fruit, vegetables and berries that they grow. What can be said to the authors of these letters?

[Answer] Today we are examining the horticultural problems from the standpoint of law. Thus let the law itself provide the answers for these authors. Point

25 of the 8 January 1981 Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Additional Measures for Increasing the Production of Agricultural Products on the Private Plots of Citizens" contains the following instruction: "A social climate should be created in all areas such that the kolkhoz members, manual and office workers and other citizens would come to feel that they are performing useful state work by raising livestock and poultry on their private plots and by engaging in gardening and horticultural work. Thus, there can be only one conclusion here -- a citizen is authorized to sell the surplus agricultural products obtained on the private economy or from tracts allocated for horticulture and gardening through the state or cooperative procurement network and he can also sell them at the market. And this can only be welcomed.

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KOLKHOZ MANAGEMENT EXPERIMENT IN ALTAY KRAY EVALUATED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 85 p 2

[Article by L. Aleksandrova, Altay Kray: "From Each According To His Abilities"]

[Text] An experiment conducted at the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz in Kosikhinskiy Rayon led to some interesting decisions. Here the creative resources of a personality became an economic category. The decision was made to have the experience of this farm repeated at seven kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the Altay Kray: commencing with the new year, they will convert to using the collective contract together with this same method.

The ideas and principles of the new system change the customary status of leaders of all ranks and particularly that of chief specialists. The earnings of each one of them are now dependent upon the economic results of the entire farm and also upon the branch which he administers. Here the personal creative plan is taken into account: a definite percentage is added to or deducted from the wages of a specialist depending upon exactly what was introduced into operations from this plan and the economic effect derived therefrom. In short, there is no such thing as a firm salary. Thus thought must be given to deciding upon which scientific recommendations and achievements of leading experience should be employed in order to increase the production of goods and operate the branch more efficiently.

But this is not all. Indeed, labor collectives are also independent and operate on a contractual basis. For example, if a zootechnician plans to raise cow productivity through the use of a new technological method, his advice or instructions alone to team leaders is not enough. The members of a production team -- milkmaids, herdsmen -- do not take him at his word but rather wish to know more exactly: what additional expenditures will be required for this and how will they be repaid. If the collective rejects the innovation, its decision cannot be rescinded by anyone.

At Losikha -- the name of the central farmstead at the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz -- such an incident has already occurred. At the end of the summer, the chief zootechnician proposed that a green top dressing be brought up to the pasture station for the cows -- it was maintained that milk would be lost if such action was not taken at the time. And the team responded: it would be costly to obtain green materials from the feed procurement specialists; rather, it would

be better for our herdsmen to seek out pasture areas which had not been trampled upon. In this manner, the milk yields would be maintained and without additional material expenditures. In other words, the Kosikhinskiy system eliminates impulsive measures. For all of the teams here, including the administrative elements, operate on a cost accounting basis. An administrative team, on the basis of an agreement, presents the production teams with facilities or land, livestock, fertilizer, implements, feed and other items, while the production teams for their part are obligated to use these resources for the production of a definite quantity of products. If insufficient quantities of milk, meat or grain are obtained or if the expenditure limit is exceeded -- one suffers a reduction in his earnings. If the resources are employed in a thrifty manner, then the production team shares one half of the amount saved.

Let us assume that the kolkhoz members took a scientist zootechnician at his word. And the latter either gave no thought to or was too lazy to once again visit the farm and participate personally in the introduction of the innovation. At such a time, both the zootechnician and the team stand to lose. Thus, in such a situation a specialist has no other solution for managing his branch or carrying out his work in an objective and responsible manner. There must be economic training for those scheduled to carry out the work and there must be no interruption in the production operations.

I recall how some time ago the chairman of the kolkhoz M. Karapotkin was surprised by a strange phenomenon. At a remote farm which had converted to cost accounting procedures, an improvement was noted in discipline -- delays were eliminated, the yards were being maintained in a clean state, the livestock were being watered and fed on a timely basis and yet the milk yields were not increasing. He went there to investigate the problem. It turned out to be a simple matter: the milkmaids were conserving in the use of feed, especially the more expensive types. It was necessary to conduct a lesson for them in specific savings. "How much does the feed cost?" asked the chairman, "And now we convert it to milk and multiply by the purchase price." Thus he became convinced that to "save" in this manner might be more expensive.

Yes, some thought should be given to the fact that there are some specialists who today are receiving firm salaries under any and all conditions and who are not held materially responsible for their recommendations and instructions. This is today. And what about tomorrow? Here everything must be reorganized. New accounting forms should be introduced, work should be carried out with those team leaders who themselves compute the wages for their collectives and who use check books for maintaining income and expenditure accounts. True, the new workloads for the accountants are being compensated by appropriate payments, as established for an economic cost accounting team. The accounting service is no longer dozing: the chief specialists merely have to be late once in turning in their reports and thereafter the economic team immediately imposes financial sanctions on the administrative team and a monetary fine is levied for a lack of discipline.

I understand: none of the above is for the faint of heart. On the other hand, this can arouse the enthusiasm of those specialists who are thirsting for professional work. And they are obviously at hand -- new volunteers who desire

to shift from talk about collective contracts and cost accounting procedures to actually carrying out work. Specialists at the Rodina Kolkhoz in Pavlovskiy Rayon, who visited Losikh on several occasions, succeeded earlier than all others in creating administrative teams and in making wages dependent upon the final results. That is, they are organizing their operations in keeping with the experience of the pioneers.

It is always good when experience is available which will aid followers in avoiding bumps and bruises. Many of the difficulties which had to be overcome during these 3 years at the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz -- were not so much mistakes, but rather they involved the selection of the best economic, administrative and organizational solutions, which is quite proper for scientific research in production. Here it is appropriate to mention briefly the Losikh variant, as already published in the press (including in IZVESTIYA issues 306/307 for 1983 and 91/92 for 1984): an experiment is being carried out under the scientific direction of the Department of Social Problems at the Institute of Economics of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The goal: with no additional material investments (particularly in the absence of favorable terms, as occurred during other "experiments"), to improve work on a farm by changing the attitude of the personnel towards their work. That is, to create production relationships which will preclude an individual participating in the production process from performing work at a level below his capability.

At the present time, the kolkhoz has already accomplished a great deal. But even the main achievement is not to be found in the managerial results. It was as if an age-old peasant-like attitude was reborn in the people and that their economic thought processes began operating (indeed, many of them initially did not wish to be organized into cost accounting units; they held meetings on this subject, since their parents and grandfathers joined a kolkhoz in the old days. And now the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz, which only recently was unable to make ends meet, is no longer sustaining losses but in fact is earning profits and is using its own money to build roads and housing units.

Is it any wonder that delegations are traveling to Losikha from many kolkhozes and sovkhoses throughout the country? Their interest is understandable: they wish to see the managerial system which makes it possible to exert an influence on perhaps what might be the most complicated aspect of the production process -- the work behavior of man. Here is what the secretary of the party organization at the Kolkhoz imeni Lazo in Novosibirsk Oblast A. Gekov wrote in "Suggestion Book" for guests of the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz: "For all practical purposes, I found myself in a creative laboratory, the members of which were all kolkhoz members. Here I automatically became a participant in the discussions and in the search for the best variants. As near as I could see, the chief goal of the experiment was to draw upon the resources of a personality, to change the attitude of people towards their work and, on this basis, to elevate the individual."

The author of these lines truly understood the essence of the innovation. And yet there are also those who, upon visiting Losikha, fail to comprehend the meaning of the experiment. Others attempted to carry out the work volume required for bringing about high quality changes and discovered that they were not up to the task. More accurately, it was not to their liking. The impressions remained in a notebook. Unfortunately, this work is for volunteers,

and even zealots. You glance once again at M. Karapotkin -- he is completely exhausted. In an area of bad roads, trucks loaded with grain are being towed; a tractor should be sent and yet not one is available. Thus no equipment is on hand for transporting the freight from the station. A feed team directed a question point-blank at the chairman: "We tried to grow and harvest more potatoes without losses. Why is it that nobody is transporting them? Indeed the earnings of the team are dependent upon the products sold." It is almost as though the chairman is the Ministry of Procurements. Minzag /Ministry of Procurements/ is responsible to the people and must undertake the necessary measures. It must arouse in them a sense of being masters of their work.

Confusion also prevails in the case of the delegations -- time must be made available for each one of them and the leader has less and less time available for this purpose. However, Karapotkin does not complain -- but he should and must. He should ask the visitors not to search for something that is not present -- miraculous changes. We are still troubled by our livestock losses, even though these losses have decreased in number. Lazy workers have not been transferred and there is a shortage of housing.

Following the visit to the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz by the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems Yu. Batalin, the chairman of the Russian State Committee for Labor A. Blokhin and the director of the Institute of Economics of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences Academician A. Aganbegyan, who evaluated everything that they saw there, an increase took place in the interest being displayed in the Siberian experiment. Today many of the specialists in the region consider it their obligation to be aware of everything taking place in their area. The specialists vary in nature. There was one particular female specialist in the Department of Labor and Wages of the kray agricultural administration who all but brought the kolkhoz economist G. Burdayev to tears. She simply could not understand why the kolkhoz taught a milkmaid to expect payment based upon the weight increases in a calf and not simply on the basis of "per head" (regardless of whether or not the "head" lives to the age of a cow).

"If a calf grows and becomes stronger, then it goes without saying that the head will be retained," reasoned G. Burdayeva.

"But we do not recommend this!" here then was the conclusion of a specialist who was accustomed to thinking in an abstract manner.

It is from such extreme positions that the conservatives attack the Losikha method. Some point to a miracle while others attempt to bind the hands of the initiators with instructions and limitations, which logic in the development of the experiment rejects. This applies in particular to the wages for the leading personnel. The scientific leader of the experiment, Doctor of Economic Sciences V. Smirnov, a well known specialist not only in the field of finances but also in introducing new developments, fell into a "dispute" with the deputy chief of the Main Administration for Organization and Wages of the KAFAR Minsel'khoz /Ministry of Agriculture/ Ye. Mil'skiy.

"Why are the specialist earnings based upon product sales computed by months and not at the end of the year?" asked a representative of the ministry.

"For operational motivation and also for ensuring that the link between labor and wages is just as clear as in production elements."

"The computations are too complicated."

"They are no more complicated than those which were recommended. Nobody at the kolkhoz objects to them."

Generally, they are familiar with it here: "We made no such recommendation." Although it is reasonable to ask: who made it possible to take away the legal right of a kolkhoz to handle a wage fund independently? And why is it possible: to command the affairs of a farm without being responsible for the consequences of those commands? Such debates should be carried out by V. Smirnov with the specialists of Goskomtrud /State Committee for Labor/.

Although the Losikha system has still not been organized completely on the farm, nevertheless it is completely clear at the present time: the chief difficulties will be associated with external relationships. In this sense the experiment will be presented with as many problems as it solves. With regard to the procurement department, it was merely touched upon in passing in the episode involving potatoes. The procurement specialists did not bear material responsibility for the products already produced, nor do they now bear such responsibility. But the leader of the grain team, perhaps the brightest representative of the "awakened" masters, P. Galygin, addressed the following question to the chairman:

"Well good, we raised the grain crop yield to a new record level. But what about the future? Should there not be an investment in the land?"

The answer is a basic one -- fertilizer. However, in 1984 the Kosikhinskiy Rayon Sel'khozkhimiya Association, just as in the past, failed to carry out its agreement with the kolkhoz -- it did almost nothing. What did M. Karapotkin have to say regarding such a partnership: theoretically it is a horse and yet for all practical purposes it is not pulling its weight. The kolkhoz could move its own resources out onto the fields and yet this would be only one fifth of what is needed. Sel'khozkhimiya does not have its own machine operators.

"Are we really to transfer our people to it and break up the teams?" asked the chairman.

I do not know for what reason M. Karapotkin stopped. At the time, he was awaiting the next arrival by V. Smirnov for the purpose of consulting with him. They had already created a precedent in relationships with the other RAPO /rayon agroindustrial association/ partner -- the rayon association of Sel'khoztekhnika. The kolkhoz concluded an agreement with the rayon association for providing services to the farms, an agreement which eliminated the notorious percentage, simplified the mutual computations and interested the partner in carrying out conscientious work, while converting it over to a contractual basis. Karapotkin has discussed this in detail in IZVESTIYA issues (Nos. 91/92 for 1984, entitled "To See Clearly the Final Goal"). It turns out that it is possible! There can be no doubt but that a portion of the problems raised during the socio-economic experiment at Losikha exceeds the bounds not only of the rayon but also the kray APK /agroindustrial complex/.

On the other hand, glance around! How far have the Losikha specialists progressed? During the winter, I paid a visit to the Kolkhoz imeni Gor'kiy in Zarinskiy Rayon. It was as though I had returned to a day in the past. All of the kolkhoz's livestock breeders had assembled together with the leaders for a production meeting. A milkmaid was speaking:

"My group has many unproductive cows, they do not furnish any milk and it makes no sense to hold on to them. But I wish to work. And I must earn money -- I have five children."

To this the chief zootechnician replied with some irritation: "But this is not your concern. Rather it is up to ourselves and the veterinary doctor to renew the herd. The leaders of the Kolkhoz imeni Gor'kiy only "heard something" concerning the Losikha experiment and they are not familiar with its full meaning. And there are no economic stimuli which are forcing them to have a better knowledge of the experiment. Or even moreso to act in keeping with the experiment.

But what should we take into account: seven farms -- and already movement. It is difficult to exaggerate one fact: this movement is being inspired and organized by a specially created executive committee of the kray council of a committee for strengthening the use of a scientific approach for solving socio-economic problems associated with the development of rural areas in the Altay Kray. Yes and in Kosikhinskiy Rayon itself, where only 2 years ago the enthusiasts at the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz were looked upon as being disturbers of the peace, the situation has changed completely. According to the 1st secretary of the rayon party committee V. Litvinov, two more farms are ready to convert over to the use of a collective contract and complete cost accounting. Things are beginning to happen.

And for those who continue to entertain doubts, I would like to report the latest news: last year the profitability level at the Put' K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz was 54 percent. Is this a large or small figure? One year ago the figure was two times lower. It is apparent that the combination of independence and responsibility is producing fine results.

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